

Garden Talk

The Official Monthly Newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County
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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TN

1966-2016

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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 info@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](#).

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Cover Photo: Bountiful blooms at the tomb of President Andrew Jackson. Photo Laura Kraft/MGDC.

Mather's Musings

by Robert Mather, President, Class of 2000

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Central Regional Conference on June 30 at Ellington Agricultural Center. This was the first conference and we were happy to have our fellow Central Regional organizations in Nashville. I was very proud the Demo Garden was part of the conference and it was just outstanding as for the Urban Gardening Festival. Great job team!

I sent Mary Boyd ('08) a card recently telling her we were thinking of her. Mary has been very active in the Demo Garden overseeing the shade garden and also helping with our festival. She has been fighting medical issues recently and reports things are getting better. I'm sure a card from you would do her good.

I was also saddened to hear of the passing of Master Gardener Donna Freeman ('10) on June 12th.

Summer Celebration in Jackson always reminds us that it is summer and HOT! This year, a midday thunderstorm caused a power outage at several outdoor tents. While the storm rolled through, we enjoyed Carol Reese speaking on "Groceries In The Fence Row", Rita Randolph with some great ideas on containers for gardening, and Jason Reeves showing slides of several fabulous gardens of England from a recent tour of Great Britain. After the storm, it was sunny and quite pleasant. We also got to shop the Master Gardener plant sale under the vendor tent. The Kitchen Divas were great as always, cooking up some great ideas using fresh herbs. You can get their recipes at the [Summer Celebration web-site](#).

Thank you to Robert Bryan ('15) for being "bus captain" for me this year. He did a great job making sure we didn't leave alone behind! We didn't make any stops coming back this year after hearing requests from several in the past. The bus arrived at Ellington about 7:45pm. Many non-members who took the bus told me how much they appreciated our providing the bus as they would otherwise have not been able attend this year without this service.

Meet Me at the Nashville Farmers' Market will be a whole lot of fun this month. David Cook, Catherine Atwell and I enjoy meeting and talking with visitors, including a few Master Gardeners, who stop by our displays to learn more about various garden problems or share their own gardening experiences. David is always happy to help and the kids love it when he brings some of his bug displays!

It's now time to think about officers for next year. Our nominating committee is actively seeking to fill several of the positions. I hope you will seriously consider how you can contribute to your Master Gardener organization next year. Serving on the board does not require a lot of your time. The executive board meets once a month, usually the week before our monthly meeting. With a good board and everyone helping we can do the things you, our Master Gardener members, want to do like field trips and education workshops.

I know it is hot, but take each morning in 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.

Become a Mentor in 2017!

by Maddy Berezov, Mentor Coordinator, Class of 2014

Do you enjoy teaching? Then the Mentor program is right for you. Mentors guide, teach and engage Master Gardener Interns as they complete their learning to become certified.

Mentors are the most important ingredient to Interns becoming lifelong Master Gardeners and if this sounds like fun, wait until you meet them!

For more information or if you have questions, email me at madbee177@gmail.com. 🐝

8th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival approaching

The Cumberland County Master Gardeners Association will be hosting this event at the Plateau AgResearch and Education Center in Crossville, Tennessee on Tuesday, August 30th.

The festival is free and open to the public.

Registration begins at 8am CDT and presentations will be conducted from 9am-3pm. 🐝



Silver Spoon-Winning Recipe: Rhubarb Cobbler

1 c flour
3/4 c oatmeal
1 c brown sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 c butter, melted
4 c rhubarb, diced
Sauce:
1 c white sugar
2 Tbsp cornstarch
1 c water
1 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour, oatmeal, brown sugar, cinnamon, and melted butter until crumbly. Divide in half; press one half of mixture into bottom of 9x9-inch baking pan. Cover bottom layer with rhubarb.

In medium saucepan, combine white sugar, cornstarch, water, and vanilla. Cook until thickened and clear. Pour over rhubarb. Pat remaining crumb mixture on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Serves 6-8. 🐝

August 11th Monthly Meeting

by Paul Martin, First Vice President, Class of 1998

Summer Greetings, fellow Master Gardeners!

I want to thank everyone who participated in June's meetings. **You** are what made it a success! I observed: Good attendance, good food, good fellowship, good learning, good door prizes, and good fun. Sounds like we are on the right path to the future.

If you weren't able to attend June's meeting, I'm pleased to announce the very **first pair of MGDC Silver Spoons were awarded** to two of our members who showed us "homemade food love" by sharing their time, talent, and groceries at the meeting.

Margaret Devine ('07) won the Savory Award for her "Nashville Hot Chicken Salad" and **Don Hover** ('03) won the Dessert Award for his "Rhubarb Cobbler." Recipes for these two delicious dishes will follow soon. Hats off! I look forward to seeing what this month will bring!

A special thank you to the good volunteers who come early to help setup and those who stay after to help clean up. Many hands make for short work.

Lastly, I want to appeal to our members to make our meetings more of a "safe space" — where we all try a little harder to be more welcome, kind, patient, polite, considerate, appreciative, and forgiving. It's a mean, ole world out there...and our meetings can be a welcome meal and two hours learning break for us all. If we do this, our organization will continue to improve and grow! Every group always needs that "new blood" — newer members, please consider a leadership position on the 2017 board.

Join us for food, fellowship, and fun at our monthly meeting on **Thursday, August 11th at 6:30pm** in the Ed Jones Auditorium on the campus of Ellington Agricultural Center! 🐝



Bluebird preparing to feed its brood as rain begins to fall in the Demonstration Garden. Photo: Dr. Alan Windham/UT Soil, Pest & Plant Center

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

July Update

Corn that's waist high by the Fourth of July is just one sign that 2016 has been a great for gardening in Middle Tennessee. Cucumbers, squash, and gourds are all expanding at an alarming rate. Twining Scarlet Runner Beans are racing with Kentucky Wonders to see which can reach the top of the trellis first. A new addition this year is a cucumber lean-to, constructed of bamboo by Weedin' Women turned architects. The goal is to improve air circulation and cut down on the mildew that's taken out the crop the last two years.



The beauty of Hardin Garden on full display! Photo: Joy Kosarsky/MGDC

Also thriving this summer is the new Belle Meade Herb Garden we installed this spring behind the winery. Common culinary herbs like basil and thyme compete with more exotic plants such as cardoon and sourwood. Several varieties of mint trail across the shaded areas. Points of color are provided by blue hydrangeas, a Lady Banks rose, and a clematis twining up a trellis of horseshoes. Great fun for us and a great sight of Belle Meade's many guests.

August Update

Nature gives — loads of beautiful beans, squash, and bronze fennel. And Nature takes away — at present in the form of a raccoon! A bed full of sturdy Tennessee Red corn is down to three plants, thanks to repeated chewing by the pesky critter.



Harding Garden's new lean-to. Photo: Joy Kosarsky/MGDC

Never ones to give up without a fight, the Weedin' Women have enlisted an owl — or at least a rubber facsimile — to beat the beast. It's too early to tell if this remedy will work, although Mariwyn Evans ('11) says her grandfather used a plastic owl for years in his garden. Cross your fingers—and let us know if you have any other raccoon-defeating ideas.

Otherwise, the garden is flourishing, due in great part to the unexpected summer rains. Our new lean-to construction is keeping mildew down on the cucumbers, a great addition given the wet weather. Plenty of rain has made it easier to get the mints, hydrangeas, and thymes established in the new Belle Meade Winery Herb Garden. The garden also has a few unusual plants, such

as shiso, cardoon, and hyssop. Next, we hope to add sensory plants focusing on touch and smell. We'd appreciate any suggestions or donations. In the meantime, stay cool and enjoy your garden.

Join us any Wednesday, weather permitting, at **8:30am** or just stop by and enjoy the glories of a garden in spring. 🌱

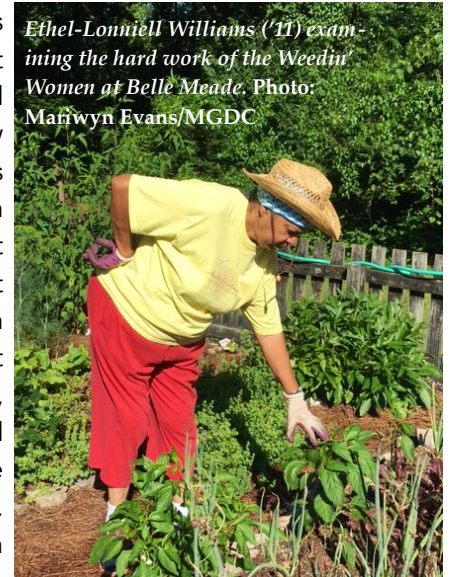
Larkspur

by Bob Mather, President, Class of 2000

Larkspur is one of the flowers you would find growing in Nashville Gardens prior to the Civil War. Growing 18-36 inches, this erect annual has single or double flowers of blue, violet, pink, and white.

Larkspur was used to fill in gaps in borders as a bedding plant. It was also used as a cut flower for decorated inside the house.

Here's a photograph of Larkspur (*Delphinium ajacis*) blooming in one of 17 "bed graves" at the Nashville City Cemetery. 🌱



Ethel-Lonniell Williams ('11) examining the hard work of the Weedin' Women at Belle Meade. Photo: Mariwyn Evans/MGDC



Catherine Atwell ('04) sharing the wonder of insects in the garden at the Nashville Farmers' Market.. Photo: Bob Mather/MGDC

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm	4 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	5	6 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
7	8 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	9 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	10 Meet Me at the Market, Nashville Farmers' Market, 10am-2pm Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	11 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Monthly Meeting Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Ag Center, 6:30pm	12	13 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
14	15 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	16 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	17 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	18 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	19	20 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
21	22 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	23 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm	24 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	25 Hermitage, 8:30am-11am	26	27 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm Hermitage, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 9am-12pm
28	29 Grassmere, 8am-12pm	30 Demo Garden, 9am-12pm 8th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival, Crossville 9am-3pm	31 Belle Meade, 8:30am-11am Grassmere, 8am-12pm	<p>Remember to check the calendar for new events and activities at our www.mgofdc.org website. You'll also find garden project work days, workshops, and more — so bookmark it and check back often!</p> <p>Be certain to also follow us on Facebook where we try to post last minute items we learn about at www.facebook.com/mgofdc.</p>		

Historic Grassmere Garden

by Bill MacLennan, Class of 2003

The Master Gardeners of Grassmere are considering the undertaking of a monumental task in order to update the appearance of the garden's border. Best I can tell, the borders are the same as they were when I became a Master Gardener in 2003. We invite all Master Gardeners of Davidson County to assist the Grassmere group in achieving this ambitious project. The pictures provided show the current state of the border and the proposed look of the new border.



The new border planned at Grassmere.
Photo: Rich Shiavi/MGDC

Our proposal utilizes cedar posts and cedar railing. The posts will be five feet in length with two feet in the ground to maintain support and stability. Use of an auger will enable the posts to be placed with a minimum amount of muscle. No more need for a PHD. For those not familiar with that terminology, it is a post hole digger. Personally, I am very familiar with that device and hope to never have to use one again. The posts will be spaced five 5' apart with an approximate diameter of 4"; railings will be approximately 1½-inches in diameter to be secured with screws.



Grassmere's current border fence.
Photo: Rich Shiavi/MGDC

Other needs will be manpower. A group of ten volunteers should be sufficient. We'll need three chain saws and fuel mix, time to cut one hundred posts, and approximately five pickup trucks. Of course, we'll need plenty of water to stay hydrated and cheerleaders are always helpful! To volunteer or learn more, contact our "Zoo Crew" at grassmere@mgofdc.org. 🌱

Kitchen Gardens at The Hermitage

by Laura Kraft, Class of 2010



A lovely bloom and a touch of shade in the summer heat. Photo: Laura Kraft/MGDC

The Master Gardeners have been hard at work the past two months. We've got some great things going on in all three gardens. The mulch paths are in — and they look wonderful! We've got lots of summer produce coming in: Beans (fava, Kentucky Wonder), tomatoes, peppers (Bell and spice), squash, and zucchini. The sun, moon, and stars watermelon, corn, potatoes and squash plants are as green as can be. We're so glad the organic deer repellent is letting the plants show off for our visitors.



Beautiful colors in the Kitchen Gardens at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage.
Photo: Laura Kraft/MGDC

We'd like to give a very warm and heartfelt "Thank You" and extend our best wishes to **Lifetime Master Gardener Terry Torre** ('03) as she moves on to her new county's Master Gardener association. Terry has cared for the Café Garden at The Hermitage for over 15 years. We are so appreciative of her knowledge and her dedication. She'll truly be missed by Master Gardeners and staff at The Hermitage!

Thursdays and Saturdays: Join in the fun or just come visit! Share your knowledge of heirloom gardening or learn more about it. Contact Laura Kraft or Mary Langford for details at hermitage@mgofdc.org. We look forward to gardening with you! 🌱



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Join us at our June meeting on Thursday, August 11th
at 6:30pm in the Ed Jones Auditorium at Ellington
Agricultural Center!*

An oft requested recipe

submitted on behalf of Chef Michael Fenswick, Class of 2009

I've received many requests to post the recipe for the two pestos that Chef and Master Gardener Michael Fenswick prepared during his presentation at our Urban Gardening Festival. For those working the festival who could not attend his demonstration, Michael brought us a sample and they are indeed worthy of adding to your summer recipes!

~ Bob Mather

Orange Pecan Cilantro

- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup toasted pecans
- 1 bunch cilantro
- Salt and pepper to taste

Lemon Walnut Parsley

- Zest and juice of 2 lemons
- 1 c toasted walnuts
- 1 bunch parsley
- ½ c marin (Japanese sweet rice wine)
- Salt and pepper to taste 🌱



Talking bugs with extension agent extraordinaire David Cook ('00) at Meet Me at the Market. Photo: Bob Mather/MGDC