

Garden Talk



**The Official Quarterly Newsletter of
the Master Gardeners of Davidson
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Garden Talk is a quarterly publication of the Master Gardeners of Davidson County, Tennessee. The newsletter will be distributed Feb. 1, May 1, Aug. 1 and Nov. 1 each year.

Submissions

Readers are encouraged to submit articles and photographs for future issues to newsletter@mgofdc.org that will be featured as space allows.

The **deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month before each publication date**, 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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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: Monarch butterflies on milkweed in the Historic Gardens at Grassmere. Photo by Andrea Pruijssers/MGDC.

Double Header

by Mary Maddox and Wayne Maddox, Co-Presidents,
Class of 2000 & Class of 2015

Fall Greetings Master Gardeners,

As we begin to see the Fall Season on its way, it's time to reflect on all the good work that Master Gardeners have contributed since the last newsletter.

Thanks to all who gave your time and talents to Jr. Master Gardener Camp, the State Fair and Music and Molasses. All were tremendous successes and brought so much recognition to our organization and education to our community.

The last quarter of the year brings us to MG Board elections. Please consider these nominees who have volunteered to serve in 2018 and be prepared to vote at our November meeting at Ed Jones Auditorium.

The full board of nominees for the MG board of 2018 is as follows:

Alisa Huntsman (2008) as President
Paul Martin (1998) and Bob Bryan (2015) as Co-vice presidents.
Anne Underhill (2015) as 2nd Vice President and Project Chair
Carolyn Turner (2016) as Recording Secretary
Kalli Lipke (2017) as Corresponding Secretary
Tom Coulter (2015) as Treasurer
Elaine Davis (2017) as Membership Chairperson
Marilee Jacobs (2013) as Events Chairperson
Bob Mather (2000) as Educational Chairperson

This looks like a very promising roster of leaders. In the weeks to follow, each nominee will present a brief bio which will give their qualifications to serve in their board positions.

Now is the time for any other MG member who feels called to serve on the 2018 board, to make their wishes known to Barbara Drake at bsd Drake@comcast.net. Otherwise, the roster presented by the nominating committee will be presented and voted on as a whole at the member meeting on November 9.

As we close out 2017, Mary and I wish to thank all of you for the support you gave us as Co-Presidents during the year. We appreciated the opportunity to know each of you a little better and to work alongside so many talented people.

We look forward to seeing MGDC continue to grow and impact our community in the future. Thank you. 🌱

Grassmere volunteers Jeanmarie Karazin, Carolyn Turner, Susan Brown, and Kay Gragg welcoming fellow Master Gardeners in the Historic Garden at the September monthly meeting. Photo: Andrea Pruijssers



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Double Header.....	3
Music and Molasses.....	4
Announcements.....	4
Calendar of Events.....	5
Monthly Meetings.....	5
Membership.....	6
Harding Garden at Belle Meade.....	6
Historic Grassmere Gardens	7
Speakers Bureau Partnership.....	7
In Memory of.....	8



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 newsletter@mgofdc.org.

Recruiting Speakers for Gardening Education in 2018

All Certified Master Gardeners and Interns interested in joining the Speakers Bureau, contact Joan Clayton-Davis, Speaker Bureau coordinator at 615.419.1236. 📞



It was all about Apples!

by Bob Mather, Co-Chairperson, Class of 2000

Our theme for this year's Master Gardeners booth at Music and Molasses was Apples. Not only for Adults, but for kids as well. My co-chair Lynn Ashford always does a great job of working with the kids. And we had several to visit our booth. Kids of all ages. Lynn had several crafts the kids could choose to make. It was exciting to see how each react to making something that looked like an apple. The parents even got into the action. And of course they all loved taking their picture at the face board.

Music and Molasses is always a great time to come together with ideas to make a great looking booth, and have fun and meet fellow Master Gardeners, new and long-time. With the great help of MG's like Tyann Chappell, Georgeann McCoy and Alisa Huntsman for making special decorations for our Harvest booth. Bren Letson got our "Face Board" back together so we could take pictures with the kids! This one day set-up and two day event allowed



several interns to obtain hours to meet their certification. A total of 181 hours were logged just over the 3 days. This does not include the individual hours in getting ready for the event.

On the Apple side of the educational theme, visitors learned about varieties grown in Tennessee such as Cortland, developed in New York State in 1915. This is a very white, crisp flesh apple available from September to November.

Gala, a great eating apple. Ginger Gold, Honey crisp, Jonagold (a great cooking apple) and Mutsu, a Japanese variety available in October and November. You can check the Pick Tennessee website for orchards that allow you to pick your own!

Thanks again to all who helped make this year's Music and Molasses festival a great success! 📞



Garden Talk

Calendar of Events

Nov. 4

Preserving the Harvest: Home canning, drying, freezing and pickling are all effective methods of preserving your garden bounty. They are excellent methods to insure your home grown produce is enjoyed throughout the year. Each preservation method will have a brief demonstration in this introductory class. In-dept preserving class planned for the spring, 2018! To register, please call 615.837.5197 or email. Tennessee.agricultural.museum@tn.gov. Spaces are limited.

Nov. 9

Master Gardeners monthly meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
See inset on bottom right of this page for more information.

Nov. 11

Terrarium workshop at UT Gardens: Whether you call it a vivarium, a terrarium, or a dish garden, most find growing your own miniature jungle fun and creative. Derrick Stowell will be the instructor. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$35 for garden members, \$45 for non-members. Visit ag.tennessee.edu/utg for location and registration updates.

Nov. 18

Volunteers needed: Nashville Tree Foundation's ReLeafing Day is November 18, 2017, 8:30 am - noon. Volunteer check in is at Croft Middle School, 482 Elysian Fields Road, Nashville, TN 37211. Volunteers must register at www.nashvilletreefoundation.org/ReLeafing. Grab your shovel and help us plant over 200 trees in Paragon Mills, Fairlane Park and Tusculum neighborhoods. Learn how to properly plant a tree! Questions? Trees@nashvilletreefoundation.org or 615-292-5175.

Feb. 2-4

Antiques & Garden Show Nashville: The 2018 Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville will be celebrating its 28th glorious year from February 2-4, 2018, making the show the longest-running, largest and most prestigious event of its kind in the country.

Always plant trees so that the prevailing wind blows the autumn leaves next door.



Monthly Meetings

Davidson County Master Gardeners Association members and guests are to join us for our Monthly Status Potluck dinner.

The November meeting program is Master Gardener Buzz Evens on "Abe's Garden". Election of officers for next year will be conducted. Several interns have also earned their "Master Gardener" certification.

The meeting is Nov. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Agricultural Center in Nashville.

Membership

by Carol Marrero, Class of 2009

THANK YOU: As you are well aware, the Membership Team has spent this year updating our Membership Roster. In addition to thanking each member of the team for their time and effort, I want to thank each and every member of our MGofDC family for being so helpful with this endeavor. Whether we contacted you by phone, by e-mail or by mail, you were gracious and so helpful.

To that end, I can say “We” did it! The MGofDC.org directory has been updated by Karen Brown in real-time. This means for members having internet access, the roster is as current as possible. For members not having internet access and must rely on receiving a hard copy by mail, we have a few more weeks to continue our final up-date and anticipate being able to send it to you by December 1.

Reporting Hours: It is extremely important we take the time to report our “Volunteer” and “Education” hours. David Cook, our Extension Agent and MGofDC coordinator, must report the impact we make in Davidson County to Metro government and to UT Extension.

He does this by reporting our hours. These hours are then translated into dollars per hour. The impact we make directly affects budget funding. If you would like to have someone assist you by entering your hours, please contact us by e-mail or by phone. (membership@mgofdc.org or 615.554.3344).

Lifetime Members: Minimum — 15 hours volunteer and education combined

Certified Members: Minimum — 25 hours volunteer and 8 hours education

Intern Members: Minimum — 40 hours volunteer and 8 hours education

Don't forget to count your travel time when reporting volunteer hours. If you have forgotten your username and password, please contact us.

Dues: This is another extremely important step to take — paying annual dues. Our 2018 dues are to be paid by January 1, 2018. The amount is \$20.

You may pay in one of two ways. #1. Mail to, Master Gardeners of Davidson County, P.O.Box 41055, Nashville, TN 37204-1055, Attention Tom Coulter, or #2. Pay at our November and/or December monthly meeting. Tom will be available to greet you and to provide you with a receipt. 🌱

Harding Garden at Belle Meade

by Mariwyn Evans, Class of 2011

The cool weather is just beginning, but it already feels like fall at the Harding Garden.

The winter crops of lettuce, radishes, and greens are sprouting, and the Weedin' Women are gathering seeds for next year as the summer plants fade.

Another sure sign of fall is the reappearance of our scarecrow pair — Mae and Chester.



No bird is going to mess with Chester.
Photo: Mariwyn Evans

This year, Chester is sporting a new hat, and Mae looks cuter than ever in her straw braids. To the delight of all, Belle Meade's Project Head Muff Cline has returned to the garden and led the scarecrow building effort. She was ably assisted by Margaret Devine, Lynne Wells, and Patty Ghertner.

At Belle Meade, fall also means School Days. More than 250 youngsters came to the garden to learn about how their food gets from dirt to table. Kids also got a chance to help plant seeds and to smell and taste herbs from the garden.

Nor have the Weedin' Women neglected the new cutting garden this fall. We planted lilies and scilla bulbs to add early color and June fragrance. We also spread bags of compost to make next year's flower display even better.

Our last workday for 2017 will be November 1, but please come by any time to enjoy all that Belle Meade has to offer during the fall and holiday seasons. 🌱



Above left: Muff Cline (left) and Margaret Devine are tickled pink to be putting Mae together.

Above right: Lynne Wells (left) and Patty Ghertner give Chester the broad shoulders a farm boy needs. Photo: Mariwyn Evans

Historic Grassmere Garden

by Chuck Vehorn, Class of 2014



Chuck Vehorn and the new 3-stage compost system at Grassmere. Photo: Andrea Pruijssers

Those of you who attended the last Master Gardener's Monthly Meeting had an opportunity to view the Grassmere Gardens. For those that did not get a chance to view the gardens, we have continued to make improvements with the work of our zoo group and the help of zoo volunteers from various organizations.

In the vegetable garden, winter crops have been planted and areas that bore summer crops have been cleared and planted with crimson clover and buckwheat. These plants (cover crops) deliver nutrients to the soil and minimize weed formation. In the Spring, the crimson clover will be ploughed under before it goes to seed. The buckwheat will die after the first frost.

In the annual-perennial flower garden, we have continued to reclaim planting space from the overgrowth of orange daylilies, daffodils, Star of Bethlehem, and weeds. When competition from those plants was reduced, we were surprised with Surprise Lilies, Spider Lilies, Black-eyed Susan, Castor Bean Plants, and Mole Plants (*Euphorbia lathyris*) popping up in the cleared areas.

Other areas – the Kitchen Herb Garden and the Medicinal Herb Garden – have also been tended to, so that visitors see gardens that have been lovingly cared for with beautiful blooms (many that attract butterflies).

In order to keep plants blooming well, we have repurposed wood pallets to build compost bins (Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3) and will add the rich compost to our Spring planting. (If you Google "compost bins made from wood pallets" you will see various ways to build them.)

Finally, we set up a booth in the garden during the Zoo's Heritage Music Festival, where children could create an art project from okra stamps and adults could talk to us about gardening issues. 🌱



Okra art at the MGofDC booth at the Heritage Music Festival. Photo: Anne Bush

Partnerships Educate Teens and Launch Mia Huell's Community Garden

by Joan Clayton-Davis, Class of 2014

Speakers Bureau partnered with Nashville Public Libraries Seed Exchange Program, Davidson County Farmers Co-op, church gardening programs, youth service programs, Opryland horticulture staff, and other organizations to reach more than 500 individuals throughout 2017.

Activities began in January by educating and supporting a creative teen with a vision to start a community garden along with her garden development team and ended the year with the launch of Mia Huell's Community Garden at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro.

This yearlong effort included a partnership between UT Extension Davidson County Master Gardener Program, TSU Extension Community Garden Program, Rutherford County 4-H/Extension Office, Nashville Public Library Seed Exchange Program (Bordeaux Branch), Oakland High School, Rutherford County Farm Bureau, Smyrna and Murfreesboro Home Depot and other local partners. 🌱



Mia Huell (right), Senior at Oakland High School in Murfreesboro/Community Garden Creator/Coordinator along with team members Miki Yang (center) and Robert Giddens (left) launched an eight (8) raised-bed community garden at Oakland High School to serve local residents. The garden's groundbreaking ceremony and fall planting was held September 14, 2017 and completed on October 6 with plants donated by Master Gardeners of Davidson County. Educational activities included a service learning activity with the garden team and 48 students on community garden planning and community engagement using local resources to build gardening capacity and success.



Master Gardeners of Davidson County

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In Memory of Donald Ray Hover

On Sunday, October 1, we lost a dear friend and a fellow Davidson County Master Gardener.

Don, and his wife Jean, have always given of themselves — their time AND their love. Whether it was setting up for our Lawn and Garden booth, for the TN State Fair or for Music and Molasses, they were “front and center.” Always helping. Always giving. There was nothing he wouldn’t do. When we needed a birdbath for our Lawn and Garden show, Don and Jean brought their birdbath from their home in Spring Hill and set it up. Several years ago, when a fence was “needed” as a focal point, he helped Jean and Shirley Lee build it without even lifting a hammer. He became their cheerleader. (This fence has been used for many years since.) When Music and Molasses set-up time rolled around, Don brought his “country” truck to town and hauled everything needed from our storage unit in a single trip. He said the little “city” trucks simply had to make too many trips to get the job done.

Don tirelessly served as our president for two years, however, he privately and quietly served us all for many years. Perhaps his smile, laughter and those wide-open arms will be missed the most. Jean, we are grateful for you being so willing to share him with us month over month and year after year. We loved him and we knew he loved us.

