

MADISON COUNTY
2016
Master
Gardener

The Bridge to Knowledge
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From The President

Dear Master Gardeners,

The Summer Celebration was another great success even if we had to dodge lightning and rain in the morning. The weather was so much cooler in the afternoon it was worth it! Thanks to all of you who weeded, potted, cleaned, moved plants, sold, watered and everything else involved in the project. The customers all seemed so happy with their plants and the help you all gave them. Special thanks to Joan and Farrow Hughes, Tommy and Paulette Crews and Brenda Coffey for all their work in organizing the set up and volunteers.

Remember to post those volunteer hours you worked at Summer Celebration and also the educational hours if you attended any of the talks.

Our August 4th meeting is something completely new for us. We will be getting on buses at the Ag Center at 6:00, so please come early. We will be doing a 'drive by' tour of some of our projects and then visiting two of our Master Gardener's home gardens. Light refreshments will be served but you might want to eat some dinner before arriving. We will have a few announcements on the bus that will take the place of our general meeting that night.

This should be great fun. I look forward to seeing each of you before 6:00 pm on August 4th. Due to the number of MGs we will not be able to take any friends or non MG guests on the bus tour with us. We are hiring two buses and a van to take us around that evening.

See you on the 4th!

Mary Nenarella, President
Madison County Master Gardeners

August 4th MCMG Meeting

The buses will be leaving the WTREC at 6:00 pm for our project and garden tours. The MCMG organization is paying for transportation, and we hope that ALL MCMG attend. Come early and load directly onto the buses, no need to go inside. There will be an attendance roster on each bus to pass around and brief announcements will be given in lieu of our business meeting. We will not be bringing food to this meeting. There will be light refreshments, but you may wish to eat a meal before you come. Please help us spread the word to other Master Gardeners. My hope is that everyone reads the Newsletter, but that may not be realistic. I am excited about the new things happening in our organization and hope you are too! See you on Thursday August 4th at the WTREC, bus departing at 6:00 pm.

2016 TN Extension Master Gardener Training

The 2016 TN Extension Master Gardener Training course is about to get underway. We currently have 20 participants registered, and I do have a few more spots available. If you know of someone who may like to join us, please have them contact me ASAP. The registration form and other information is posted on the home page of our website <http://madisoncountymg.org/> This year we are hosting several UT Extension Specialists and Agents as guest speakers for the training course. I would like to invite any MCMG's to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about new topics and brush up on the basics. The meetings are held at the Extension Office Auditorium on North Parkway, begin at 6pm and wrap up at 9pm. See the schedule below and make plans to attend!

Date		Speaker	Topic
Aug	9	Celeste Scott	Orientation
	16	Dr. Sams	Basic Botany
	23	Carol Reese	Landscape Design
	30	Celeste Scott Mary Nenarella	Year Round Vegetable Gardening Compost & Organics
Sept	6	Dr. Natalie Bumgarner	Soil & Fertility in West TN
	13	Carol Reese	Woody Ornamentals
	20	Lee Sammons & Tom Stallings	Backyard Fruit Production & Desirable Wildlife
	27	Dr. Alan Windham	Disease ID/Management in Ornamentals
	29	Carol Reese	Herbaceous Ornamentals
Oct	4	Barbara Tucker & Sue Barnes	Propagation
	11	Dr. Frank Hale	Insect ID/Management in Ornamentals

There will also be a Saturday workshop which will cover

- 1) Lawn Management
- 2) Weed ID and Control
- 3) Hands on Project

The date will be determined once classes commence.

*If you are interested in attending any of the sessions, please let me know so that I have plenty of seating set up.

2016 MCMG Plant Swap

Don't forget about the MCMG Plant Swap that is scheduled to be held during the November meeting. Since many of you divide perennials in the fall, it made sense to hold our hopefully first annual plant swap in November. I would like feedback on the timing and how it works in your garden schedule. Depending on participation and your comments, we may attempt to have it earlier in the fall for 2017. This is how the swap will play out!

Each member can bring up to 3 plants to contribute to the swap. You will be given a ticket for each plant when you enter the building and the plants will be added to the "shopping/swapping" area. For each ticket that you have, you will be able to pick out one plant. After you have picked out your plants, you will turn in your tickets at the "checkout."

For Example:

- You bring 3 plants and get 3 tickets. You may select 3 plants from the swap.
- You bring 2 plants and get 2 tickets. You may select 2 plants from the swap.
- You bring 3 plants and get 3 tickets. Your MCMG friend did not bring any plants and you decide to give them one of your tickets. You have 2 tickets=2 plants. Friend has 1 ticket= 1 plant

Now is the time to stroll your gardens and decide which plants in your collection that you may like to share with your fellow gardeners. This is a great opportunity for us to share unique selections with one another! If you have questions, please let me know.

I have never read of any Roman supper that seemed to me equal to a dinner of my own vegetables; when everything on the table is the product of my own labor.... It is strange what a taste you suddenly have for things you never liked before. The squash has always been to me a dish of contempt; but I eat it now as if it were my best friend. I never cared for the beet or the bean; but I fancy now that I could eat them all, tops and all, so completely have they been transformed by the soil in which they grew. I think the squash is less squashy, and the beet has a deeper hue of rose, for my care of them. ~Charles Dudley Warner, *My Summer in a Garden*, "What I Know about Gardening: Tenth Week,"

1870

Does Anyone Read This: Should I keep writing? Let me hear from you!

Dauidsams@charter.net

Summer Celebration: The plant sale was again well organized and highly successful. Yes it rained and kept us running in and out of the building but the afternoon was cooler and people shopped later. Joan Hughes and her team did a great job under trying circumstances and should be thanked for their efforts. I would also like to thank Carol Reese for her “walk through” the evening before the sale and Jason for everything including bringing in new plants for us to try.

Carol and I certainly tried to buy enough to make the sale a success. My favorite find was an unknown macrophylla hydrangea with very large, fully double flowers edged in white. It should propagate from stem cuttings and I intend to try. Perhaps we can all have it eventually.

Summer celebration has become an opportunity for me to reconnect with those whom I haven't seen for many years and I enjoy the interaction no matter how hot it is or how tired I get. It is also an opportunity to learn and I especially enjoyed following Andy Pulte around the berms and listening to his reports on UT research and tips for growing these plants better in one's home garden.

Weather: We finally got significant rain this week, our first since May, giving us a much needed break from constant watering. Now on to the July 15-August 15 period which is generally the hottest month of the year. We have spread well over 100 bags of mulch this year which should help some to keep things moist!

Plant performance: What have the really good performers been this season? I bought a purple passion vine from Jason at the spring sale in 2015. It made several 4-inch flowers, grew over the top of its 12 foot arbor and covered itself with large buds followed by late summer and fall flowers. It lists as a zone 8 plant but survived the winter under deep mulch and has regrown. My evergreen clematis, *Clematis armandii*, another zone 8 plant, also flowered nicely this spring. Mulch is the secret to keeping these plants alive. With enough mulch the ground does not freeze and if the ground does not freeze many zone 8 plants grow in West Tennessee.

Last year I became very interested in the purple-leafed dahlias which came to my attention in England. I have found several flower colors which continue to flower or to rebloom if deadheaded. Some do not flower well in our climate but I find it worthwhile to grow them for their purple foliage with or without flowers. They apparently grow easily from cuttings and come in a variety of plant and flower sizes as well as varying foliage hues and I continue experimenting.

My crinums continue to flower lushly in June and July. It now appears that tuberose will grow up through them and produce highly scented flowers just as the crinums slack off. Gladiolus should also grow through them and flower giving one color for a longer period.

Up for adoption: Figs: Who still needs a fig bush? Let me know as I have another batch in process and have lost my previous lists of those wanting a fig bush. If anyone wants a hardy elephant ear with a purple petiole or a hardy begonia they are welcome to come after one or to let me know and see if I can remember to bring it...



*One of the healthiest ways to gamble is with
a spade and a package of garden seeds.*

~Dan Bennett

Wanted!! Articles for the Newsletter

You can earn volunteer hours by writing about some garden you visited, some technique you tried which worked (or did not), or share your enthusiasm for some special plant, or condensing a gardening article you read.

Keep contributing. Keep reading. Keep sharing.

Please send your contributions to:

Liz Whitsitt lizv@tds.net

Pam Stanfield pamstanfield@gmail.com

August Meeting

Bus Tour

Meet at 6pm
to get on the buses.

Board of Directors

Mary Nenarella, President
Wayne Gerler, 1st Vice President
Glenn Fesmire, 2nd Vice President
Mary Kay Havranek, Secretary
Tammy Overby, Treasurer

Board Members:
Elizabeth Edwards,
John Havranek,
Susan Luckey,
Bill Wyatt

Non-voting members :
Pam Stanfield, Newsletter
Liz Whitsitt, Newsletter

Master Gardener financial standing
information is available upon request.



**Check Out
UT Gardens Jackson
On Facebook!**

Lots of great info being shared there, and you
don't have to wait for a monthly newsletter!

The Bridge to Knowledge

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