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## From The President

Dear Master Gardeners,

I hope all of you who were able to attend our "unusual" August meeting have spread the word to those who were unable to come along for the ride! I have heard nothing but positive comments on our bus tour of projects and two of our member's beautiful gardens. Special thanks go out to Elizabeth Edwards for her wonderful organizational skills and to Helen and Kayo Mullins and Lucinda Hunley and her husband for sharing their home gardens with us. The gardens were not only beautiful but beautifully maintained...no weeds! I can only aspire to such heights! We had a wonderful time and I have had many members ask if we can do it all again at different times of the year so we can see those "specialty gardens" that are perfect in spring, for example. That will be up to the new president and board we will all be voting for in November.

I also want to remind you that you are welcome to attend the new MG training classes taking place right now to earn education hours. This is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and meet our new interns.

Don't forget to save the date for our West TN Master Gardener Workshop on October 6th. There will be classes in the morning, lunch, a speaker followed by Jason's fall plant sale. Then, of course, we will have our regular meeting with the speaker at night.

At our September meeting on the first, we will be hearing from Ray at Rose Creek Farms. I have heard him speak twice and he is very interesting. I am sure you will enjoy him.

See you September 1st if not before at the MG Training sessions!

Mary Nenarella, President  
Madison County Master Gardeners

## Hummingbird Festival In Holly Springs MS Sept. 9-11 9am-5pm

<http://strawberryplains.audubon.org/taxonomyterm121/hummingbird-migration-nature-celebration>

**When to Prune What? That is the Question!!-**

**Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 5:30-6:30 Ag Complex Auditorium Free talk open to the public.  
Discussing the appropriate times to prune and correct pruning techniques.**

**TN Conservationist Magazine has a good list of events by Month**

### **2017 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MASTER GARDENERS**

Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon Master Gardeners™ invite you to the 2017 International Conference of Master Gardeners, July 10 - 14. We're planning an exciting conference at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

This conference offers an array of gardening sessions, tours, a mini film festival, regional mixers to network with others, and a trade show.

In addition, opportunities abound to explore this region through a wide selection of tours. Ranging from overnight packages to half-day outings, these escorted tours take you into private and public gardens, urban farms, vineyards, nurseries, even the **Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area**

#### **Western Region Master Gardener Workshop**

For the second year in a row, we will be hosting the Western Region Master Gardener Workshop here in Jackson at the WTREC in conjunction with the Fall Plant Sale on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The workshop will feature 3 breakout sessions, which you will select during registration, our Western Region Planning Meeting, and a great Lunch. This portion of the day is for Master Gardeners Only! Registration is \$20 and can be done online or mailed in. Registration information is on the homepage of the TN Extension Master Gardeners

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/mastergardener>

After Lunch, the day is open to the public with no fee!! So invite friends and family! Jason will give an overview of plants to be offered in the sale at 12:30, the guest speaker will begin at 1:30, and the plant sale will run from 3:00-6:00pm. Our "monthly meeting" will begin as usual at 6:30 with our guest speaking again that

evening. We open this meeting to the public as well.

If you would like to earn some volunteer hours, we will need help that day with hospitality:

Registration, Morning Snacks/Coffee, Serving Lunch/Drinks, Clean-up

Please contact Celeste Scott at 668-8543 if you are interested in helping us host this awesome event!

MG  
CORNER  
BR

# Ramblings

David W. Sams September 2016

I thank those who admit to reading this column and I will continue writing for now. Fortunately this column was designed so I can pretty much discuss whatever I wish to discuss.

**Our Last Meeting:** Everyone seemed to enjoy seeing the several master gardener projects as well as two wonderful examples of what a garden can and should be. I am in awe of those who produce really fine gardens perhaps because I have never been able to accomplish this task myself! Maybe my place is too big and I spend too much time working on things to give away...

**Tall gingers:** The red butterfly ginger, *Hedychium greenii*, which I have had in the plant sale the last 2 years tends to make numerous plantlets on the flower head but few flowers. This year I am growing it in more shade and keeping it constantly wet. It has responded with several flowers and numerous buds. It is more nearly bright dark orange than true red. I suspect that most or all tall gingers appreciate ample water and afternoon shade when grown in our climate. *Hedychium greenii*, is not as heavily scented as the three other tall gingers I have but the flowers last longer and add a tropical appearance to the garden.

**Weather:** It seems hotter than ever to me but examination of the weather records shows that the humidity is just higher. Nevertheless it is miserable outside much of each day and likely dangerous also. I garden in shorter spurts than in the past and try and stay out of the sun as much as possible. Drink fluids and cool down as you need to! It will be cooler soon.

**Continue harvests and deadheading:** When plants flower they are, of course, attempting to reproduce by making seed. Harvest all the fruit of okra, summer squash, cucumbers and green beans frequently or these vegetables stop setting new fruit and mature seed in old fruit. Likewise there are lateral buds which develop and flower on many flowers if spent flowers are removed. I suspect that some of the newer coneflowers will produce so many flowers that the plant will weaken itself ripening seed to the point where it will not survive the winter. Will removing some or all of the flower buds or spent flowers increase winter survival? Finches and other small song birds really like coneflower seed but if the plants die they will have none.

**Blackberries:** Our 'Black Magic' blackberry which was doing so well may also have produced so many berries that it killed itself. I will get another 'Black Magic' blackberry if I can find one, and keep it pruned to limit berry production and see what happens. How does one tip layer a blackberry which fruits at the cane tips? How else can it be propagated? Meanwhile, the 3 'Heritage' raspberry plants which we planted last fall continue to produce small but tasty fruit and to spread rapidly. We are quite pleased with these plants.

**Propagation:** I am finding that dahlias root readily from cuttings taken most any time. Will these late plants make tubers to store or can they be held over in pots in a cool garage? I have divided a large pot of butterfly amaryllis, *Hippeastrum papilio*, into 12 bulbs. Look for them to appear at the right time as I do not need 12 of them... Swamp hibiscus, *Hibiscus coccineus*, grows readily from seed and flowers the first year. It tolerates extremely wet soil but will grow in drier soil with ample water. I wonder how much shade it will tolerate and if the other hardy hibiscus are as easy to grow from seed. Many of the newer hibiscus cultivars are hybrids and will not come true from seed. Tropical passion plant suckers just like our wild form. Horticulture never ceases to be a constant delight to me and I lack focus!

## Update-2016 Master Gardener Training

We have begun this year's training course with 28 participants enrolled! Thank you all for helping to spread the word. This is a great new group of interested gardeners who are eager to learn and join our volunteer efforts in the community. As usual, we have attracted people not only from Madison County, but surrounding areas like Carroll, Gibson, Henderson, and Chester County. To me, this is clear evidence of how our organization is making a difference in our communities. As you are aware, we are hosting several UT Extension Specialists and Agents as guest speakers for the training course. I would like to encourage you to attend any of our training sessions to expand your own knowledge and to show support to our new trainees. The meetings are held at the Extension Office Auditorium on North Parkway, begin at 6pm and wrap up at 9pm. An updated schedule is posted below. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

Date		Speaker	Topic
Aug	9	Celeste Scott-Extension Agent	Registration/Orientation
	16	Dr. Sams- MCMG	Basic Botany
	23	Carol Reese-Extension Horticulture Specialist	Landscape Design
	30	Tom Stallings-MCMG Mary Nenarella-MCMG	Desirable Wildlife Organics and Composting
Sept	6	Dr. Natalie Bumgarner- State Coordinator for TEMG	Soil & Fertility
	13	Carol Reese- Extension Horticulture Specialist	Woody Ornamentals
	20	Lee Sammons- Extension Agent Celeste Scott- Extension Agent	Backyard Fruit Production Turf Maintenance & Weed ID
	24	Celeste Scott-Extension Agent	Vegetable Gardening Basics and Season Extension. Hands on Workshop!!
	27	Dr. Alan Windham- Extension Pathology Specialist	Disease ID/Management
	29	Carol Reese- Extension Horticulture Specialist	Herbaceous Ornamentals
Oct	4	Barbara Tucker & Sue Barnes- MCMG	Plant Propagation
	11	Dr. Frank Hale- Extension Entomology Specialist	Insect ID/Management

**Programs-** September's Program will be given by Ray the owner/grower of Rose Creek Farms in Selmer TN. They are the only year round CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). They raise produce and meat on their farm and are regular vendors at the West TN Farmers Market, and even sale through grocery stores in the Memphis area. Octobers Program will be the guest speaker for the Fall Plant Sale. Novembers program will be our first EVER MCMG plant swap and updates from Celeste on State Wide Extension Master Gardener program planning and a review on navigating the MG website for resources and entering hours.

## Upcoming-First Ever 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 at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### 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.

Also at the November meeting, we will be holding elections, and I will give a brief overview of reporting, and Statewide TN Extension Master Gardener Updates.

### Lazy in September? Think Again!

September is by far my favorite month of the year when it comes to gardening! Usually, Mother Nature rewards us with some much needed relief from August's scorching temperatures, but it remains just warm enough to let us know that the door has not yet closed on summer. After a mid-season clean-up of my perennials annuals and containers in early August, most have fleshed back out and are ready to shine for round two. The cooler night time temperatures and shortening days seem to make these garden jewels perk right up and continue to perform well until our first frost. At this time of year, summer is no doubt winding down, but fall has not quite made it to our doorstep. This may be why many gardeners don't consider September as an especially busy month when it comes to chores in the garden, but maybe they should?

This month is a great time to begin collecting seed from many of our later maturing summer blooming plants. Seed heads should be drying out by now, and it is important to not miss the window for seed collection before nature does the job for us! If you aren't into collecting seed from year to year, you may consider leaving those seed heads for the birds and other wildlife before you get too carried away with tidying everything up before fall. September is also a good time to harvest the remaining crop on your tender herbs like basil. Find those notes and tips that Jeanne Guidi, from Melodia Hill Plant Farm gave us at our MCMG meeting earlier this year. Don't let those valuable herbs go to waste. Preserve them as pesto, chutney, preserves, or dry them for use all winter long!

September is also a good month to start dividing your perennials. You can divide clumps in a simple effort to create more plants, or to share with friends. However, there are signs to look for when a plant is in actual need of division. Poor flowering can be a signal that the plant might benefit from dividing. Lodging of the stem in taller perennials like Goldenrod and Joe Pye Weed may also be an indicator. Finally, be on the look-out for die out in the centers of large clumps of ornamental grasses as well as iris. If you see any of these signs, it may be time DIG! Keep in mind that our plant swap is just around the corner, and keep an eye out for favorites that you would like to share with friends. Don't forget to study your bulb catalogues now and get your selections ordered early. If you have them at the first of October you will be more likely to get them in the ground. Am I right?

For those vegetable garden enthusiasts, now is the time to seed/plant your cool season garden. There are many cool season crops that can be directly seeded into the soil and will produce a bountiful crop well into the fall and winter months. Leafy greens like Collard, Kale, Lettuce, Mustard, Turnip, and Spinach as well as the customary Carrots, and Radish, and even more exotic crops like Swiss chard and Kohlrabi are all candidates for direct seeding. When it comes to our old favorites including Broccoli, Cabbage, and Cauliflower, I would stick with installing transplants at this time of year. Don't forget to turn that compost pile and get any fully composted material out on the garden now in preparation for next season.

At this point, I could go into fall turf maintenance, but that's a whole new pail of worms. I believe I will stop here and let the reality of all that is happening in our gardens sink in. Happy Gardening!!

*Email Notes from Celeste:*

**Bus Tour-** Last evenings tour was a great hit!! The weather was perfect and everyone I talked with had only positive things to say and even commented on how much they learned about projects that we participate in around town. Helen and Kayo Mullins, and Lucinda and Everette Hunley were so generous in allowing us to tour their properties. Both were very beautiful and have given me inspiration for my own garden! There were about 75 folks who joined us for the tour and we had room for about 40 more. If you missed last night, know that we missed you and wished everyone had been able to attend such a wonderful evening.

**Nominations-** We will be accepting nominations from the floor at the October meeting. Positions that will be available are President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 3 Board of Directors positions. If you are interested or have someone in mind that you believe would be a good fit, talk with that person now and see if they would be willing to accept a nomination. Elections will be held the following month at the November meeting.

**Projects-** We are in need of project leaders for 1) The RIFA Soup Kitchen Table Arrangements, to begin in Jan. 2017, and 2) The Francis Holbrook Hensley Animal Shelter (Arboretum installation) in Lexington, to begin immediately. If you are interested in these positions please give Glenn Fesmire or myself a call and we can fill you in on the details. If you are already a project leader, think about scheduling a work day for your project this fall. We only have 3 more meetings left in the year to announce them!

*Creating with Concrete*, by Sherri Warner Hunter, ( Lark Books, 2001)

Martha found this book at one of our local Maryland libraries and brought it home. I picked it up and started thumbing through it and ended up reading it cover to cover multiple times.

The author, Sherri Warner Hunter, was a sculptor working in concrete for over a decade when she wrote this book. She lived in Bell Buckle, Tennessee and has had works on display all over Tennessee. What she did in this book was to assume the reader was new to this hobby and took them from the introduction of the craft to how to sculpt potential works of art.

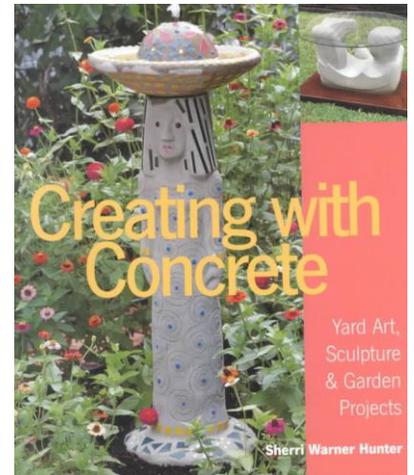
Following the introduction, which contained a large number of pictures of beautiful works of art, she went into a chapter of concrete basics. This included ingredients, tools, work area, clean up, safety, mixing, curing, and concrete cleaning. In this chapter she defined 16 different mixes and how they could be used. Later in the book she referred back to which mix should be used for each project she described.

Chapter 2 took you through forming and construction techniques. These included casting, mold making, reinforcing, and removing from the mold. She discussed sand casting, making and using armatures, carving and direct modeling.

Chapter 3 discussed surface treatments such as stamping, polishing, coloring, Mosaics, grouting, reverse-cast mosaic and embedding. The remainder of the book discussed a number of projects that make use of the materials and techniques described to create both beautiful and useful works of art. Some of the projects are for planters, stepping stones, bird baths, tables, and benches.

We both enjoyed the book and look forward to trying some of the projects. According to the online catalog, the Jackson Madison County Library does not have this book, but it does have a newer book by the same author in circulation: *Creating Concrete Ornaments for the Garden; Making pots, Planters, Birdbaths, Sculpture, & More*, 2005, Lark Books

Contributed By Lois G. Workman and Martha Y. Workman, MCMG.



## Gifts from a Gardener

Sometimes I like to encourage others to garden when I give a gift, no matter the age of the one receiving the gift. My daughter's best friend is having a first baby in August and I looked for a gift that can be enjoyed by the new Mom, the new baby and my daughter. After I got a solution, it seemed like a good idea to share just in case there is another Master Gardener that enjoys getting others involved in gardening.

I discovered a children's book I love, "Miss Rumphius" by Barbara Cooney. This book is a winner of the American Book Award and the beautiful illustrations can be seen in the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Maine. The story goes that Alice Rumphius had a dream for when she grew up to travel the world and then live by the sea. Her Grandfather told her to add a third thing to her dream: "You must do something to make the world more beautiful." In the end, Alice Rumphius discovers that she can make the world a more beautiful place by spreading wild flower seeds by the sea.



There was my gift solution- a beautiful book for a beautiful new baby girl and a box of seed bombs for the new Mom and my daughter to throw from their horses as they trail ride in the high Rocky Mountain meadows! What a fun way to renew your spirit after nine months of being grounded from your horse.

### Seed Bomb Recipe

1 part wild flower seeds ( I got ½ lb from

highcountrygardens.com and purchased High Country Meadow Mix Native Wildflower Seed. The mix contains perennial lupine, Lewis flax, blanketflower, purple coneflower, spiked gayfeather, dwarf evening primrose, coreopsis, blue sage, columbine, butterfly milkweed, and 12 other varieties)

1 part compost (you can use worm casting or commercial compost)

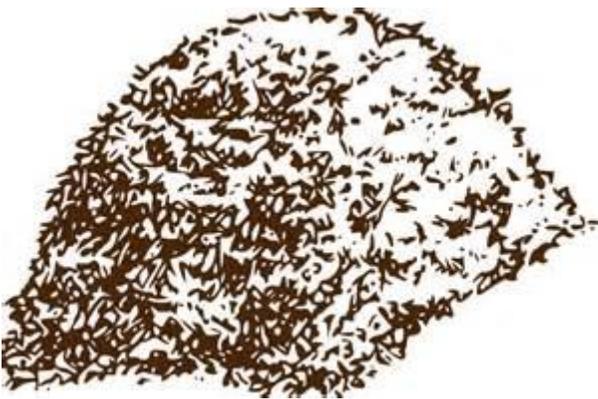
5 parts Air-Dry Clay by Crayola (available at Walmart)

Mix this stuff together. Spread it out on wax paper or parchment paper. Cut into squares and roll each square into a ball. Let it air dry for a day or two and bomb away! (Best thrown into ditches, ravines, and other sunny places that your horse can't go!) Contributed by Nancy Murray



## Happy Coincidence by Frankie Brown

I read an article on a gardening website that talked about keeping your vegetable garden wire baskets, metal stakes, & metal poles stored outside rather than in your garage or storage facility for the winter months. The article stated that the dirt clinging onto these items could contain fungal spores that may survive the warmer temperatures and protected conditions of storage and infect your garden next year when those items are reintroduced to the soil. The point of leaving your things out of doors was to allow the below freezing temps to kill the bacteria or spores that are normally protected in the dirt or in your garage for the winter. In an effort to spare myself from the ongoing battle with fungus here in the South, I thought what can it hurt to try? I am always on the lookout for good advice & simple tricks to try in my own garden. Luckily, my yard is fenced so no one can see the crazy things I do, epic failures, and sometimes great successes that I have had over the years. So, after my garden had produced its harvest, I put my tomato baskets in the corner of my yard & stacked conduit poles up along the fence in hopes that I will be rewarded with less disease next year. As fall arrived, I assumed my leaves were gathering in the corners of the yard against the fence as they always seem to do. I finally got a nice day to some work in the yard, and decided that today I would rake the leaves up to be mowed and then tilled into next year's garden spot. To my surprise, the baskets that I had left out to overwinter were packed full of leaves! All I had to do was pick the baskets up, walk over to the garden & shake them



out!! What a nice present all of this turned out to be. I did not have to rake or get the wheelbarrow out, just pick up my new leaf traps & shake. So, the point of this tale is that maybe we will never know if overwintering outside is beneficial in disease reduction, but I found a better way to utilize my wire baskets for the winter months rather than stacked in my garage. I love to

learn by my mistakes, gives me more reasons to laugh at myself!

MEANINGFUL FLOWERS – Historically, a gift of flowers held a specific meaning attributed to the blooms chosen. This developed in the Victorian era, which featured the use of symbols and gestures to communicate to a loved one. Though not as significant today, a flower can still send a silent, yet special message

O	D	N	A	W	R	E	L	C	A	L	I	L	P	L	H	O	R	M
A	N	T	I	A	G	S	Y	L	O	O	I	A	O	F	R	A	A	E
T	Y	W	N	S	L	C	Y	N	I	D	A	C	P	R	E	G	M	R
L	I	R	E	I	O	S	P	N	O	D	O	I	P	L	N	Y	N	G
E	L	E	D	R	E	W	A	F	A	E	O	I	Y	O	E	O	S	D
R	I	Y	R	I	A	A	P	O	F	M	P	F	L	A	I	A	W	D
L	W	O	A	E	S	A	N	L	O	P	A	I	F	T	E	I	E	L
A	A	T	G	O	I	W	R	E	O	P	A	R	A	A	A	O	E	N
E	R	H	T	N	I	C	A	Y	H	C	F	N	Y	D	D	S	T	G
T	I	V	A	M	S	Y	E	A	F	A	R	E	A	L	O	D	P	A
I	L	O	I	Y	D	D	A	S	F	A	A	L	O	R	L	Y	E	A
I	A	G	A	O	A	I	L	I	C	R	L	A	D	L	L	I	A	A
N	N	T	A	I	L	I	Y	K	N	R	L	E	D	S	A	R	S	I
P	N	L	S	N	L	E	N	Z	E	O	R	T	A	P	D	O	A	N
R	A	Y	A	R	F	I	T	S	U	N	F	L	O	W	E	R	H	L
N	P	E	O	A	P	A	A	R	S	A	R	C	S	W	P	R	O	V
F	E	L	I	C	R	I	P	A	A	Z	A	L	E	A	E	C	E	A

AMARYLLIS - dramatic  
 AZALEA -contentment  
 DAFFODIL – chivalry  
 DAISY – innocence  
 GARDENIA - joy  
 HYACINITH - sincerity  
 IRIS - inspiration  
 LILAC – first love

SUNFLOWER – adoration  
 SWEET PEA – shyness  
 VIOLET – faithfulness  
 MAGONIA – dignity  
 PEONY – healing  
 PINK CARNATION – gratitude  
 POPPY- consolation  
 RED ROSE – love

Editors Note: I did not write down who passed this to me..if you will email me, I will give you credit for this puzzle and for the others you gave me. [lizv@tds.net](mailto:lizv@tds.net)



To Fans and Supporters of the A&G Show,

Tickets for the 2017 Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville are now on sale!

Please visit us at [www.antiquesandgardenshow.com](http://www.antiquesandgardenshow.com) to see 2017's exciting line-up of national speakers and events. And be among the first to find out who's coming to Nashville next February!

Tickets

<http://antiquesandgardenshow.com/tickets/>

# 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

Ray from  
Rose Creek  
Farms

6:30pm

West Tennessee AgResearch  
& Education Center  
Auditorium



**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**

The University of Tennessee Extension

Madison County

309-C North Parkway

Jackson, TN 38305

Phone 731-668-8543    Fax 731-668-8440

Email cscott52@utk.edu (Celeste Scott)

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Master Gardener financial standing  
information is available upon request.