From The President

If you have been to a public garden in the last few years, it is very likely that you enjoyed a Children’s Garden. The current trend is for public gardens to be educational as well as entertaining for young children. Dr. Andy Pulte, who teaches Horticulture at UTK, has made it a practice to ask his students how they became interested in plants. Years ago the majority said it was their parents. Over the years he has noticed a change in that a majority now claims that it was their grandparents who were the gardeners. Research says at about age nine the influence from family diminishes as the influence of peers increases. This is why it is so important for training and exposure to happen early in a child’s development. By age nine a child’s attitudes toward the natural world are formed. Dr. Pulte says, “We are developing the next generation of naturalist (gardeners) or not (developing them).”

You may ask what this has to do with Madison County Master Gardeners. Our primary reason for existence is to assist UT Extension with public education. A successful future for our food supply depends upon bright minds being involved in agriculture. We have the ability to lay a foundation with young people through the Junior Master Gardener curriculum. Currently a program has not been started in our area. It would be wonderful if we could all work together and make this happen. We do have the opportunity to work with youth through the “Keep My Hood Good” program. Please remember our youth as you look for opportunities to serve with MCMG.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Edwards - MCMG President
BUS TRIP
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017
The GARDENS OF:
  Jason Reeves
  Linda and Doug Wallace
  Judy and Mike Garner
  Minette and Danny Veazey
  Peggy and Jimmy Williams
Lunch included $20.00

What’s the Buzz
September Meeting
WTREC 605 Airways Blvd Jackson
The topic is Bees and the speaker is Kenny Perry
September 7 – 6:30 Potluck

Items with the new MCMG logo will be available for preorder at the September meeting.
Tee shirts for men and ladies are available in grey
A unisex apron and a tote are being offered in orange
All items are only $15.00 each.
Summer Celebration pre-function: We came together as a group for a progressive dinner and social interaction. This is in keeping with my firm belief that it is important to take care of each other! Yes, it was hot but no one seemed to mind. I enjoyed wandering around and talking with other master gardeners and so did most everyone else. I thank the board of directors and the station director, Dr. Bob Hayes, for their work in making it happen and I am supportive of using a bit of our money for more such events.

Summer Celebration: Joan Hughes and her team did a great job, once again, and should be thanked for their efforts as should all other participants. Allowing those working the first shift to collect their plants before they began their duties was a nice touch and in keeping with taking care of each other. Thank you, Joan, for this.

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 enjoyed the talks both indoors and outside. Summer celebration is also a great time for me to shop for my wife’s July 14 birthday.

Weather: It is now hot and dry as expected. Keep on watering. Potted plants dry out amazingly quickly in the heat especially with a little bit of breeze. If you plant in this heat continue to water the plants until they are fully established.

If you have plants which you expect to rebloom such as remondant hydrangeas fertilize them immediately. This really should have been done right after they finished flowering the first time. They seldom reflower well without being fed a second time.

Plant performance: Two years ago 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 grow easily from cuttings and come in a variety of plant and flower sizes as well as varying foliage hues and I continue experimenting. They are not supposed to live over but some do if mulched. If they live over they often grow much larger the second year.

Curcumin ginger seems easy to grow and apparently multiplies quickly. I will try to have it in the plant sale in 2-3 years if all goes well.

A single slicing cucumber plant will produce 20-30 fruit if trellised and kept harvested. That is a pretty good return on the cost of one seed! Excess seed will remain viable for several years if placed in an airtight container such as an old pill container and refrigerated. I label containers by writing on masking tape as I can’t remember what the seed is without a label.

My crinums continue to flower lushly in June and July. It now appears that tuberoses, lilies and gladiolus will grow up through the mud and flower. This can be used to extend the flowering season or to add scent to the garden.

Up for adoption: Hardy bananas! If you want a hardy banana let me know. Careful, they border on invasive and form a clump which is very difficult to remove.

Video: My daughter-in-law placed a video of our yard online in mid-July and it was watched by an amazing number of people. Is this a way to do a garden tour without doing a garden tour?
I graduated from the University of Illinois as agricultural engineer and I had a small hope of farming someday. I worked as a sales engineer in Milwaukee, Detroit and Charlotte before moving to Peoria in 1988 as an account executive, managing the Caterpillar account. In the summer of 2003, we moved to Jackson, after the May tornados. Today, I am the marketing manager for Leroy Somer in Lexington, still managing the Caterpillar account. The majority of Caterpillar generator sets around the world contain products built and/or designed in Lexington.

I am married Lynette, my hometown sweetheart, 38 short years ago. We have 3 kids with 5 grandkids spread out across the country in IL, IN, AZ and TN. When not gardening, we love to visit our kids and grandkids. As we travel, we love to visit gardens and estate sales. In addition, I enjoy hunting and sporting events. If we can work into ours travels, being a diehard Cardinal fan, I try to attend as many baseball games as possible.

I grew up on my grandfather’s farm in Southern IL near Carbondale, roughly 3 hours north of Jackson. Both my grandmothers had large gardens, which I had to help maintain while growing up. I did not realize then how much I had become attracted to gardening. At this time, gardening was more of a chore; it has hard work to trim, mow, weed and whatever else my grandmothers could think of for the grandkids to do.

Once I moved from my hometown, I continued to tinker in gardening as I was not able to farm. As we moved around the US, my interest in gardening grew. Moving from Detroit to Charlotte, we had the car packed with houseplants. The move from Charlotte to Peoria included the houseplants along several with hostas, azaleas and dogwoods. Then, when we moved to Jackson, a large U-Haul with multiple platforms was needed for the collection of plants we had amassed. We moved to a 1 acre lot off of Hwy 412 with only foundation plantings around the house. Then in 2009, I enrolled in the master gardener class to increase my knowledge for my tinkering. To my amazement, the master gardener program was so much more than gardening. The Jackson branch has become a passion for me as with many of us. Our lot is slowing taking shape as a work in progress. All master gardeners know you have to try several to find the one plant that is awesome. In closing, I have enjoyed serving as a board member and program chairman. When my time on the board ends next year, I plan to stay involved. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve this outstanding organization.

Wayne Gerler
On July 27th, the Memphis Herb Society held a seminar entitled “Be Healthy, Herbal and Wise” at the Memphis Botanic Garden. The speaker was Sasha Daucus a professional herbalist, who has been practicing since 1984 and teaches classes on medicinal herbs. She presented a slideshow with identifying photos and information about the most useful herbs for strengthening the immune system and nerves.

Some of the herbs that have benefit for Immunity are:
- Boneset (Eupatorium perfoliatum) helps boost immunity;
- Echinacea boosts immunity and is a good flowering plant;
- Goldenseal calms inflammation;
- Astragalus (Astragalus membranaceus) is an adaptogen that helps balance the immune system and can be added to soups to help prevent colds;
- Peony root (Paeonia lactiflora) is good for arthritic conditions;
- and Holy Basil (Ocimum sanctum), also known as Tulsi is an adaptogen which soothes nerves and is good as a tea.

Some herbs are beneficial for the nervous system. These herbs are calming and can help a person feel more stable. St. John’s Wart (Hypericum perforatum) has multiple purposes. It is a nerve healer and can be used to aid the healing of bruises and burns when made into an oil based salve. It can also help with mild depression and SAD. It can be taken by capsule or drunk as a tea. Ashwanganda root can be made into a tea for when you are feeling ‘run down’. Hops (Humulus lupulus) is a beautiful ornamental which has a sedative effect. Lemon Balm (Melissa officinalis) is calming to the nerves and when made into an oil based salve can aid the healing of cold sores and shingles. Passion flower (Passiflora incarnate) is the Tennessee state wildflower. The flower, vine and fruit can all be dried, chopped and made into a tea that calms muscular tension caused by stress. Skullcap (Scutellaria) can lower tension levels without causing drowsiness.

Sasha also explained about the best time to harvest herbs. For the leaves, it is anytime up to bloom time and including early blooming. For flowers it is best to harvest in early to mid bloom. For roots the best time to harvest is in the fall.

Following the presentation there was a tour of the Memphis Botanic Herb garden where we could see, touch and smell a number of the herbs that were mentioned. The garden is a learning garden and is divided into different areas such as medicinal, culinary, tea, fragrance, and dyes. Refreshments included basil lemonade, mint tea and a variety of foods seasoned with fresh herbs including rosemary cookies. All delicious! The seminar concluded with a hands-on lesson about how to make and use a simple tincture, which we were able to take home, made from Lemon Balm. If you are interested in more information about medicinal herbs you can contact Sasha Daucus through her Facebook page Golden Light Center. She also recommended the book A Modern Herbal by Margaret Grieve.

Sherri McCalla is the curator of the Memphis Botanic Herb Garden. She does monthly work/studies on Saturday mornings, which are open to anyone who is willing to work a couple of hours in the garden in exchange for an educational class. For example, the last class was on how to make herbal waters, juices, teas, shrubs and cordials. Her number is 901-636-4134.

The Memphis Herb Society’s meetings are always open to the public and guests can attend for a cost of $5. They meet at 6:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month and have herbal refreshments, provided by the members, followed by a meeting that lasts until 8:00 or 8:30. The next meeting is August 24th and will be about how to make good use of your herbal harvest.
Recipes from the Summer Celebration Progressive Picnic

Adapted from a Farm Bureau recipe called "Peach Melba"

Raspberry Shortbread Bars
2 cups all-purpose flour
½ cup granulated sugar
¼ tsp. salt
1 cup cold butter
1 ¼ cup raspberry preserves
½ cup sliced almonds

2. Lightly grease an 11 x 7-inch or 9-inch square. Press remaining flour mixture onto bottom of prepared pan.
3. Bake at 350° for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned.
4. Spread raspberry preserves over crust in pan. Sprinkle reserved 1 cup flour mixture over preserves. Sprinkle with almonds.
5. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool on wire rack. Cut into 1 ½” squares.

I would like to encourage everyone to make plans to attend the 2017 Western Region TEMG Workshop on Oct. 12th. Memphis Area Master Gardeners have volunteered to host our region and have planned a wonderful day of learning and fun. Come with us and enjoy a beautiful fall day in Memphis visiting both the Memphis Botanic Garden and the Dixon Garden and Gallery. In addition to tours and keynote speakers, Greg Touliatos and Jim Crowder, there will be opportunities to network with other MGs from the region and even purchase plants from the Memphis Botanic Garden Nursery that afternoon.

Registration is now open and ends on September 15th. Cost is $25 and includes lunch and tours! You may complete the paper form and mail in payment or register and pay online at https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODICTID=686
August: Rice Paper Plant

Submitted by Alexandria Smith, UT Gardens Knoxville Horticulturist and Collections Manager

As you peruse through the vibrantly colored annual trial beds of the UT Gardens, Knoxville, there is an abundance of visual delight. However, the one thing that always makes me pause in awe is the giant exotic-looking foliage of *Tetrapanax papyrifer* ‘Steroidal Giant’, commonly known as rice paper plant.

Native to the swampland forests of Taiwan, this tropical can be used to make rice paper veneer sheets, artificial flowers, and is commonly utilized in traditional Chinese pharmacopeia to treat various ailments. While evergreen in zones 8 to 11, in Knoxville the rice paper plant behaves like an herbaceous perennial with hardy roots and frost-sensitive stems that die back when temperatures fall below freezing.

### Knoxville Seriously Gardening Series

The Fall Landscape: the best trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals for the autumn season

Instructor: Dr. Sue Hamilton, UT Gardens Director

Tuesday evenings August 29-October 17, 6:00-8:30 PM

Program Description:

Let autumn be one of the most exciting and beautiful times in your landscape. With careful plant selection and planning your landscape can be a blaze of color and drama creating a ‘feast for your eyes’ that everyone will enjoy. In addition to learning details about choice plants and cultivars, tips on garden design, companion planting and gardening will be provided. 8 week course - held each Tuesday night from August 29-October 17 in the South Greenhouse adjacent to the UT Gardens. Class is limited to 15 students.

Series Cost: $180/Members; $220/Nonmembers.

### Crossville Fall Gardeners Festival

**UT Gardens, Crossville 9th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival**

August 29th; 9 am- 3 pm. Free and open to the public. Location: Plateau Discovery Gardens, UT PREC, 320 Experiment Station Road, Crossville, TN. (Crossville is in the Central Time Zone.)

12 topics chosen for the home gardener will be presented under tents throughout the gardens, along with wagon tours of the facility, opportunities to shop from garden vendors, educational exhibits, and so much more. Bring a friend or two and join us for a day in the gardens!

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.


Please send your contributions to:
Liz Whitsitt    lizv@tds.net
Pam Stanfield    pamstanfield@gmail.com

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