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From The President

Our annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Thursday, February 6th. I hope everyone will be in attendance. We will be recognizing graduating interns and award members for their outstanding accomplishments. This year we have invited some distinguished guest from our city, to attend the banquet. I want to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers who participated in the Chipping of the Greens project. They bagged mulch from 610 recycled Christmas trees.

Also, I want to thank the committee in charge of decorating our February 6th Awards Banquet. Susan Luckey is again the chair of this committee. She has excellent leadership and decorating skills. Thank you in advance for your hard work and contributions to make our annual Awards Banquet a success.

Spring is on its way and you'll soon be caught up in a frenzy of seed sowing, growing, and nurturing your garden as it comes back to life. Make use of these

quieter Winter months to organize your thoughts and get a head start on the new gardening year. Here is a list of the top 10 things to prepare your garden for Spring. (1) Order summer-flowering bulbs and seeds, (2) Tidy up flower beds and borders, (3) Clean out and wash your greenhouse, (4) Sow any seeds that need a longer season, (5) Hunt down and remove garden pest, (6) Install water butts and start collecting rainwater, (7) Move deciduous shrubs, (8) Maintain fences, gates and trellis, (9) Clean and sharpen gardening tools, (10) Create a composting area.

President - Glenn Fesmire

M G CORNER

Madison County Master Gardeners February Meeting – February 4, 2020

You are invited to participate in an assessment of the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener program. The responses we receive to this survey, from you and other volunteers, will assist us at a state and local level to develop and plan programs that best fit the needs of participants.

This will be a confidential survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XTNKJC>

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Direct any questions about this survey to:
Dr. Natalie Bumgarner,
rbumgarn@tennessee.edu

2020 Nashville Lawn and Garden Show Date and Time

Thu, Feb 27, 2020, 10:00 AM –
Sun, Mar 1, 2020, 5:00 PM CST
Location

The Fairgrounds Nashville
NEW Expo Center
Wedgewood Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Memphis Area Master Gardeners
SPRING FLING 2020
Garden Show and
Plant Sale
March 27-28, 2020
9a.m. - 5p.m
Admission and parking
are free!

January Gardening Tip

- As long as the ground is not frozen, you can continue to plant new trees and shrubs, just tuck them in with a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch. Remember to keep the mulch away from the trunk.

February Gardening Tips

- Sow broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage seed indoors now or buy transplants in March, Harden them off before planting out in March
- Soil in Tennessee tends to be acidic. Have your soil tested to see if and how much lime is needed. Your local UT Extension office can provide you with

instructions on how to proceed. It takes months for lime to react with the soil, so the sooner the better.

- Green/English and sugar snap peas can be direct sown in the garden in February. If sown too late, they will not have time to flower and fruit before it gets too hot



Hey MCMG's,
 I just wanted to remind everyone about our upcoming awards banquet on Feb. 6th at 6:30pm. We will be recognizing Trainees who have completed the educational portion of their MG training, Graduates who have completed certification, those who have achieved over 100 hours of volunteer service, and service year recognition with pins and badges, and MUCH MORE! Please see the list below for those who will be receiving service year recognition. If you have questions, or think anything is inaccurate, please give me a call so that I can double check! Trainees and Graduates are welcomed to bring a friend or family member to share with them in this great accomplishment!!
 See you there.

| VIP 3 Year | 5 year |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Amy Aaron | Jack Baudo |
| David Barnhill | Glenn Fesmire |
| Jamie Boone | Laurie Green |
| Jonnette Carter | Diane Griffin |
| Cliff Carter | Mary Jenkins |
| Lisa Doyle | Robert Jenkins |
| Bonnie Gordon | Sandra Kelly |
| Neil Haase | Debbie Morris |
| Della Haase | Mary Nenarella |
| Patricia Lewis | Celeste Pope |
| Brad Moore | Joanna Priester |
| Debra Peterson | Denise Stuart |
| Cheryl Thomas | Becky Wilson |
| Dick Thompson | |
| Kathleen Trent | |
| Sue Wyatt | |

| 10 Year | 15 Year |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Bill Bobbitt | Patsy Powell |
| Sherry Caldwell | Marilyn Taylor |
| Robert Caldwell | Liz Whitsitt |
| Wayne Gerler | |
| Cathy Gilliam | |
| Helen Mullins | |
| David Tanner | |
| Martha Workman | |
| | |
| 20 Year | Emeritus |
| Sue Ann | Nettie Jean Cooper |
| Judy | Robert Graves |
| Pam | Tharon Kirk |
| Darlene | Kayo Mullins |
| Debra | Ann Phillips |
| Barbara | Virginia Stewart |
| Lisa | Wayne Fesmire |
| Robert | Geraldine Fussell |
| | Erie Kate McCord |
| | Margaret Rucker |

January 2020 meeting: Carol and I returned from Christmas in Colorado with something resembling a cold which quickly morphed into a low-grade lung infection. We are still coughing and didn't need to spread it around at our January meeting so we did not attend. From what I hear, holding a master gardener meeting the day after the New Year's holiday while the Tennessee Voles are playing a bowl game and not having a formal speaker may be a 3-part knockout punch and not very well advised.

Unusual Weather: Is there any other kind? Watch for periodic blasts of extremely cold or hot and humid weather for the foreseeable future.

Banquet: Carol and I look forward to this event every year. When I passed around sign-up sheets for plants last fall, 41 people requested a start of my pink seed-making rainlily. These plants will be available at the banquet. If you asked for one please come and pick up your plant. Yes, there will be a few extras. These plants have been growing in my sunroom and need to remain indoors until the weather warms. I do not know how hardy this plant is but suspect that it will be killed if the ground in which it is growing freezes. Yes, it can be started from seed but the tiny bulbs need to remain indoors and continue growing the first winter. It is also important that the seed be planted as soon as it ripens and not be allowed to dry out.

2020 plant Sale: Plants for this sale continue to slumber in their cold frames. We will add to them as the weather warms. This is the year to really reduce our hosta collection. Maybe there are master gardeners who would like some?

Winter bouquets: Pansies and Lenten roses are beginning to flower and there is an occasional flower open on the mahonias, Japanese quince and early spirea. These flowers probably will not survive the cold weather expected this week but there are many more flowers and flowering plants yet to bloom. Try picking some of the lenton roses and floating them on water or placing them in a pansy vase for early color. Branches of other spring flowering plants will likely burst into bloom if cut, put into a vase containing water and brought indoors.

To do Now: Wait on pruning trees, shrubs and hardy perennials until after the last of the really cold weather. I will plant vegetable seed for transplants immediately after our banquet. Cool season transplants really should be already growing.

Colorado Home: Construction continues. The building apparently now has a shingle roof and wiring is going in. We are excited!

Mortality: I have now lost my best friend from high school, graduate school and my coworker from the UT staff! I guess I must be older than I thought. Yet I will move and begin to grow yet another garden even if this garden is a bit smaller and more efficient to care for.



HEADS UP FOR MARCH MEETING !

The Amazing Monarch



Kimberly Vensel, aka Butler Butterfly Lady, is a nature photographer who has a passion for the Monarch butterfly. She has been raising Monarchs for 10 years and has successfully raised and released over 3,000 Monarch butterflies to date along with many other species of butterflies and moths. She has taught thousands of folks about the importance of Monarchs through her educational presentations and will be here teaching about the amazing transformation of Monarchs - from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly - on March 5. Come out and learn about the amazing Monarch and



some other super awesome butterflies!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WANTED

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, recipe, or condensing a gardening article you read.

Keep contributing.

Keep reading.

Keep sharing.

Please send your contributions to: lizv@tds.net

Madison County Master Gardener Officers

President: Glenn Fesmire

Vice President Projects: Manuel McKnight

Vice President: Programs: Sue Ann Barnes

Secretary: Laura Tomlin

Treasurer: Mary Nenarella

Board Member: Charlotte Jaquet

Board Member: David Sams

Board Member: Stephen Pope

Board member: Marie Kyper

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

February Meeting

Awards Banquet

February 6, 2020



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)

Board of Directors

President: Glenn Fesmire

Vice President, Projects: Manuel McKnight

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Master Gardener financial standing
information is available upon request.