



## In This Issues

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## From The President

Happy New Year! I'm excited to serve as your president this year. A huge thank you goes to Glenn Fesmire for his leadership as our president for the past two years. I know he will be there to help guide me along the way. Thank you to Sue Ann Barnes and Dr. David Sams for their board service. We welcome Nancy Blair, Phillip Mullins, and Donald Collomp to the board, and we are grateful to Mary Nenarella, Laura Tomlin, Manuel McKnight, Stephen Pope, and Marie Kyper for their willingness to continue to serve.

Even though this past year was like no other, Master Gardeners are resourceful and rose to the challenge. Technology provided lots of opportunities to learn and stay connected. I'm sure we all either love or hate Zoom at this point. How many of you did a Google search on how to make yourself look better on a Zoom call? Oh, come on, I can't be the only one. Even though our projects didn't get the attention they deserved this past year, we've learned how to adapt to the situation and will be able to resume working on projects while following COVID guidelines. The plan is to have limited in-person monthly meetings in the spring. These hybrid meetings will allow us to have a small group together and simultaneously stream online for those who aren't able to join us in person. It will be good to see our friends again, and every little bit of normalcy we can achieve makes us feel better.

December brought the dreaded farewell reception for our friends, Dr. David and Carol Sams. We all knew it was coming, but nobody wants to see them leave us. Madison County Master Gardeners presented them with a gift certificate from a local Colorado nursery, but we can never properly thank them for what they have meant to us personally and in our association. My landscape has lots of plants they have generously shared, and I know many of you can say the same thing. We will continue to keep in touch, and we wish them nothing but the best in their beautiful new home.



As we wave goodbye to 2020, don't forget the little things that brought gratitude and happiness to this chaotic year. The pandemic caused us to hit the pause button, but let's hit reset for 2021 and make the best of the new year.

President,  
Charlotte

## How Plants make it to Market (Zoom meeting Jan 7, 6:30pm)

### Dr. Andy Pulte



Andy grew up in the nursery industry in Grand Island, Nebraska. He received his Ph.D. in plant sciences from the University of Tennessee, where he is now on the faculty in the same department. His current responsibilities include teaching and advising, and he also coordinates UT's plant sciences undergraduate program. Additionally, he speaks regularly to diverse groups and travels extensively to feed his passion for people and plants. Over his career, he has contributed to a variety of gardening publications and hosted a gardening radio show. He is also an internationally certified arborist. Andy gardens in a residential community north of Knoxville. He seeks out unusual plants for his home garden that inspire questions from those who visit. He and his wife, Beccy, have two outdoor-loving young boys who are always looking for their next adventure.

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*May 2021 be the New  
Beginning for a safe year  
and many happy times  
together*

## In case you missed Dr, Sam's greeting on FaceBook

Thank you, Master Gardeners

Carol and I are in Colorado now for the next 3 weeks. We are trying to decorate a bit and also to do some things like work on closets and storage. Our quarters are still a disaster which we make only very slow progress on. I wrote a thank you for the master gardener newsletter before we left Tennessee but apparently never sent it to Liz. This will have to suffice!

More than 50 people turned out wearing masks to participate in wishing Carol and I well in our future journeys. I am amazed at the turnout under the circumstances and wish to thank our friends one and all. I also wish to thank the master gardener organization for their very generous gift card to a Colorado Springs nursery and many individual master gardeners for their cards and/or little gifts. Also, thank you to all of those who worked to plan and to make this event happen. The big gift card will be used to begin yet another garden and will serve to remind us of all our Tennessee friends.

Our experience in MCMG has been one of the bright spots in our life. Our biggest regret in moving is leaving the people of MCMG. It is to be hoped that we will be able to visit in Jackson at least occasionally even if we are 1100 miles away. We also hope that some of our friends will visit us in Fountain, Colorado near Colorado Springs.

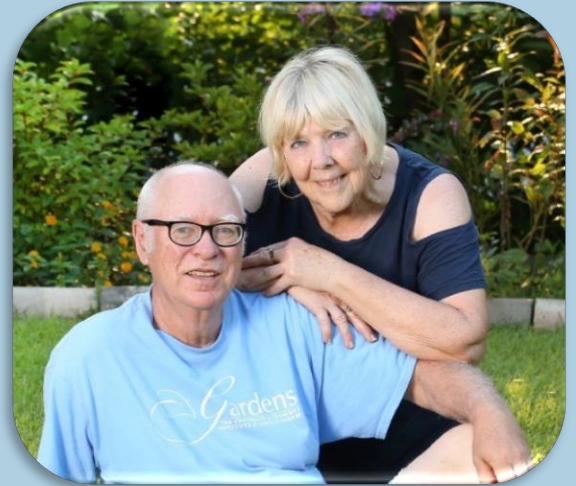
Our address will be 1370 Old Pueblo Road, Fountain, Colorado 80817

My cell phone is (731) 819-6697

Carol's is (731) 225-2047

Our doors will always be open to members of MCMG.

Dave and Carol Sams



## Southern Soul Food New Year's Menu

**Hog Jowl** A pig roots forward. A chicken scratches backwards. A cow stands still. Pork symbolizes forward progress.

**Black Eyed Peas**, Eat blackeye peas for luck. Some believe that you need to eat 365 peas to solidify your luck. I don't count my peas. I just make sure to eat plenty.

**Collard Greens**, Greens symbolize money. You can use any kind of greens, it doesn't have to be collards. Even cabbage is acceptable.

**Homemade Cornbread** Cornbread cooked in little medallion shaped pieces represent gold.

The tradition of black-eyed peas for Southerners is believed to have originated back during Civil War times when Sherman's soldiers raided Southern homes, taking virtually all of the food and burning the crops, but mostly ignoring the fields of black-eyed peas, because they thought them to be food for the livestock and of no value otherwise. As one of the few food sources left to sustain the people and the southern soldiers, those black-eyed peas came to represent good fortune. Makes sense to me!

End the meal with a traditional dessert like:

Kentucky Butter Bundt Cake,

Mississippi Sweet Potato Pie,

Pineapple Upside-Down Cake,

Kentucky Transparent Pie,

Coconut Layer cake or

Hummingbird Cake with Cream Cheese frosting

### Sweet Potato Pie

- 2 medium sweet potatoes (or 2 cups mashed or pureed)
- 2 prepared 9-inch pie shells (unbaked; or homemade pie shells)
- 4 ounces butter (softened)
- 2 cups white sugar

- 1 (5-ounce) can evaporated milk (1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- For serving: whipped cream

- Mash the sweet potatoes . Measure out 2 cups
- .Line two (9-inch) pie plates with the pie dough. Refrigerate until they are thoroughly chilled while you prepare the filling.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine the mashed sweet potatoes, butter, sugar, and evaporated milk. Whisk until the mixture is well-blended.
- In another bowl, whisk the eggs, vanilla extract, and cinnamon until they are well-blended
- In another bowl, whisk the eggs, vanilla extract, and cinnamon until they are well-blended  
Add the egg mixture to the sweet potato mixture and blend thoroughly
- Pour the sweet potato filling into the chilled pie shells. Bake for about 1 hour, or until the filling is firm and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

# 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



**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)

# January ZOOM Meeting

**Dr. Andy Pulte  
"How Plants  
Make it to Market"**

**Jan 7 • 6:30pm**

## Board of Directors

President: Charlotte Jaquet

Vice President: Programs: Nancy Blair

Vice President Projects: Manuel McKnight

Secretary: Laura Tomlin

Treasurer: Mary Nenarella

Board Member: Marie Kyper

Board Member: Stephen Pope

Board Member: Phillip Mullins

Board member: Donald Collomp

Master Gardener financial standing  
information is available upon request.