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From The President

Happy New Year! Do not let the post holiday blues get to you. We are kicking off 2018 with one of our favorite speakers, Rita Randolph. I hope everyone will be able to join us Thursday, January 4th at First United Methodist Church.

We are beginning to plan for our Plant Sale which will be held on Saturday, May 5. As you begin planning for your garden season, remember to plan to provide plants for the sale. This is our largest annual project and provides various opportunities for service hours. For this project to be successful, we need every member to be involved in some way.

With profits from our sale, MCMG's are able to offer a scholarship to an area student who plans to major in a horticultural related field. In 2017 we were able to award scholarships to two equally deserving students. We gave \$1,000.00 to Arise 2 Read through Leadership Jackson. The money will be used to purchase books, especially ones about plants and gardening for second graders. We purchased six wagons to be used at our plant sales. The Board approved \$5,000.00 for the construction of a concrete holding area at UT Gardens for mulch and potting soil.

As usual, at the February meeting we will have graduation and awards. The plan is to have new directories for everyone in February. If you have had a change of address, email or phone number, please go to the MG website and update your information as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Edwards,
President, Madison County Master Gardeners

MG CORNER

Join us April 5th, 6th, and 7th for the 2018 TEMG State Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park.

Want more information?- [TEMG 2018 state conference info.pdf](#)

 [2018 State TEMG Conference Schedule- April 5,6,7.pdf](#)

Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference-
Registration will open in early January, 2018.

The 2018 state conference will be held at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, TN (Dickson County) on Friday and Saturday, April 6th and 7th. There will be a pre-day tour in Franklin on Thursday, April 5th.

2018 conference will be a great opportunity to learn more about horticulture, insects, flowers, and trees across the great state of Tennessee, as well as enjoy one of our beautiful state parks and spend time with some of the best folks you'll ever meet- Tennessee Extension Master Gardeners!

We look forward to seeing you in April!

How can another year already be gone? Time truly accelerates as one ages. Well, here goes one last 2017 'Ramblings'.

Ladies of Hope: Some of these young ladies have never been successful at much of anything. They are learning that people do care about them and that they can be successful in the things they do. Working with them is highly rewarding and greatly appreciated by them. See Mary Kay Havranek or myself if you are willing to help.

Sunroom: I still have a cymbidium orchid like I gave away 2 years ago. It needs transplanting but right now it has 11 bloom spikes on it which include well over 300 flowers! Carol and I also find that camellias flower nicely in the sunroom and are a significant addition to holiday beauty.

Overwintering plants: The large garden cart which Carol and I bought last spring looked like it was going to take space away from our overwintering plants in the garage. Then we found that it would hold 11 small macrophylla hydrangeas in 1-2 gallon pots and allow them to be easily wheeled in and out of the garage according to the weather of the moment. They should flower nicely in the spring independently of the weather. Meanwhile, 200 hostas sleep in pots under a tarp where they won't get excessively watered if it ever rains.

What if: Our clump of hardy bananas is huge! It freezes to the ground or nearly so every winter and leaves a mess of several hundred pounds of rotting foliage to be dealt with in the spring when there are way too many things to do. What if I cut the plants off 3 feet high in the fall after the first light frost when the firm plants were easy to deal with? I tried it this year. Ask me how it worked out in the spring.

Doing well: I now have 3 pots full of rain lily bulbs in the garage. These are spring bloomers with pink flowers. They flower only when it rains and never when I merely irrigate them. They seem to grow fine without ever going dormant. What if I were to divide these bulbs after the first of the year? I bet they would be growing healthily by the February banquet. Hmmm.

Now is the time to: Collect and purchase seed and supplies for spring. Make a planting schedule. If one wants to grow cool season transplants and set them in the garden the first of April the seed will have to be planted by the middle of February. That date will be here before we know it... Some can actually be set out before the first of April if they are ready. Raised beds warm up early and are easily covered in early spring.

Planning ahead: The next year will be the best gardening year ever! Every year is the best gardening year ever! Is next spring the time to spend more money and time

mulching? Downsizing will be the name of the game the next few years beginning with potted plants in my yard and overgrown hardy bananas. Hostas in particular need thinning out.

Lenton Roses: One *Helleborus* plant which I bought 2 years ago actually flowered in December and looked great. Perhaps it is more Christmas rose, *H. niger*. than Lenton rose, *H. orientalis*. Some of the plants appearing on the market are complex hybrids which incorporate several species in their ancestry. We will plant some of my seedling hellebores in January for our May 2018 plant sale.

Final thought: Happy New Year everyone!



Mark Your Calendar!

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

March 1-4, 2018

The Fairgrounds Nashville

Tickets available November 2017.

More details coming soon!



Gardens | Free Lectures | Workshops | Floral Designs | 175+ vendors | Saturday Wine Festival & more!

[Nashville Lawn and Garden Show](#) | *The Fairgrounds Nashville* | 615-772-6809

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show is produced by the Nashville Lawn and Garden Foundation

Upcoming Events & Projects

Chipping of the Green is scheduled for Saturday January 13th 9am at Jackson Fairgrounds in the fire training parking lot. Those who used real trees for Christmas are encouraged to bring their tree to be chipped into mulch instead of going to a landfill. City employees will run the chipper and we will help with bagging the mulch ect.. The mulch is FREE for anyone to take and use. Please bring gloves and a shovel.

Graduation & Awards Banquet is set for Feb. 1st 6:30pm at First United Methodist Church downtown Jackson. Interns who are receiving certification are invited to bring a guest, and Interns who completed the training course this fall are also encouraged to attend. You will all be presented with special recognition. In addition to graduation, we will be announcing Gold Leaf 100 hr. pins, 3, 5, 10, 15, & 20 year pins, several special awards, and Madison County Master Gardener of the year. I hope to see everyone there, but the baby girl may mess up those plans! If you are interested in serving on the decorating committee, please sign up at the January meeting.

250K TREE DAY is scheduled for Friday Feb. 23rd and Sat. Feb. 24th. We will need about 6-8 volunteers to help with tree pick-up, organization, and distribution. We will be the only pick up location for Madison County this year, so I anticipate a lot more traffic. I am so excited that this event was so successful last year with 100K TREE DAY they raised the goal to 250K!! We will also be receiving 200 FREE tree just for volunteering to help with the distribution to our county. We will also need volunteers who are willing to take small saplings and plant them. This could be on your own property, family/friends/ or community parks if they agree to your request. If you are interested in helping with this project in any of these manners, please sign up at the January meeting.

Extension Office Assistance. While I am out of the office for maternity leave, it would be nice if we could have some MG's to help answer questions and calls that come in. I am looking at having someone here on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am-4pm for the months of Feb-April. This is a great opportunity for those who may not be able to do many physically demanding service hours or work in the warmer conditions of spring and summer. I will have plenty of reference material, resources, and contacts (other agents/specialists) to help you. Please include your preference of Tuesday or Thursday and how often you would like to work, and I will make out a schedule after the Jan. meeting.

Farmers Market Booth. We have scheduled a space for MCMG's to have an information booth at the West TN Farmers Market once a month starting in March of 2018 through October. It is usually the 1st or 2nd Saturday of the month from 8:00am-

1:00pm. We will be handing out literature, publications, information about our FREE class series for 2018 'Vegetable Gardeners Toolshed', and Master Gardener Training. We will have a small folding table, table cloth, banner, and several literature holders that will need to be picked up from the storage shed here at the Extension Office by the people who are manning our booth each month. After we set the schedule, I will get the combination for the lock to each of you. We have a great start to volunteers who want to help, but as always would be pleased with more help. If you are interested, please sign up at the Jan. Meeting with you preferred date: March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th, Sept. 8th, Oct. 6th

Our **State Conference for 2018** is going to be at Montgomery Bell State Park on April 6th and 7th with a pre-day tour/grafting workshop on the 5th. Everyone who is signed up for the State TEMG Newsletter has already received an e-mail outlining the event. For more information and conference schedule, you can visit the TEMG website at <https://extension.tennessee.edu/mastergardener> . This is the closest proximity to West TN that the State Meeting (once called winter school) has ever been held. As with the Regional Meeting in Memphis, I hope that MANY of you take advantage of the short drive and are able to represent our organization for this fun filled weekend!! Registration will open in early January with more information to come.

Recap of Events & Projects from December 2017

The Decorating with Live Greenery Workshop was a huge success! It would not have been possible without the help from MG's who donated greenery, the great group of Interns and MG's who stepped up to help me organize set-up and plan, and of course our wonderful speakers Mrs. Barbara Tucker, Susan Luckey, and Jason Reeves. We had a whopping 70 folks in attendance including the sweet young ladies from Women of Hope. After so many people signed-up for the workshop, I was terrified that we would run out material, but we had PLENTY! In addition to making wreaths for ourselves, we were able to make an additional 30 beautiful wreaths that were donated the following day to Non-Profit organizations in our community. Thank you to Nancy Thomas for helping me deliver the wreaths and inspire the spirit of giving to those at Youth Town, RIFA, JACOA, & The Dream Center.

Instead of charging \$5 for each participant at the workshop, I asked that everyone leave a donation to be given to the Salvation Army Angel Tree here in Madison County. We collected over \$250.00 and they were ecstatic to receive the donation. That money sponsored 3 Angels!! I hope we are able to continue an event like this at the end of each year. Merry Christmas to ALL!

Hour Entry & Certification. Thank you to everyone for getting those hours reported and helping me to keep our membership current. A special thanks goes out to the 'lifetime' members 10 years and over, who were asked to report this year. We are so blessed to have dedicated members who can bend when the wind blows and keep our organization connected to its roots!



*May the dawn of this New Year,
Bring new joys for you...
May your new year be blessed
with peace, prosperity and happiness too!*

Happy New Year!

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

January Meeting

January 4 • 6:30 p.m.

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

200 S Church St

Jackson TN 38301

**Rita Randolph will
speak on Conifers**

facebook.

**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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Wayne Gerler

Susan Luckey

Bill Wyatt

Master Gardener financial standing information is available upon request.