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From The President

The 2019 and 2020 board members along with Celeste Scott, our Extension Coordinator gathered for a Winter Board Retreat to plan for the upcoming calendar year, 2020. This meeting was also to transfer job responsibilities to our newest board members Laura Tomlin, secretary, Manuel McKnight, Vice President of Projects and Charlotte Jaquet, Board Member at Large. We had a very productive and lengthy meeting and look forward to implementing those plans, making 2020 a great year for our organization.

Madison County Master Gardener is a volunteer organization. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for volunteering their time and talents throughout this past year, making all of our projects a success.

I hope everyone can be in attendance at our next meeting Thursday, January 2nd 2020. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Just as a new bloom spreads fragrance and freshness around. May the new year add a new beauty and freshness into your life.

Happy New Year!
President Glenn Fesmire

M G CORNER

Madison County Master Gardeners January Meeting – January 2, 2019

“From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind’s eye”
Katherine S White, Onward and Upward in the Garden (1979)



The glory of gardening:

Hands in the dirt,

Head in the sun,

Heart with nature

To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.

Alfred Ausiatin



Colorado: Our part of our new home is framed and dried in. Framing is underway on the kid's part of the structure. Progress is slow as they get a lot of snow. We will spend part of the Christmas season meeting with the electrician, cabinet maker etc.! There is a lot to do.

February MG Meeting: Look for a distribution of rain lily bulbs at the February banquet. I should have 50-60 small pots to distribute, maybe more. They will have to stay inside until the weather warms. These are the rain lilies which produce seed pods like an amaryllis when mature. They have pink flowers and are a bit larger than those I was previously familiar with.

May Plant Sale: We have about 100 plants, mostly hardy ferns wintering in cold frames. So far, so good. How many will we find time to add come spring? Quite a few hostas for sure. They are now wintering under a tarp to keep them from getting too wet and rotting. There are about a hundred that will not make the trip to Colorado. Master gardeners could come here and dig a lot of plants for the sale... There would have to be rules...

New Plant: Carol and I visited the Edison estate in Fort Myers over the Thanksgiving holiday. We returned with a large variegated Bromeliad. This plant is patented and not legal to propagate. I am trying to explain to it that it is not allowed to send up offshoots as they normally do but it may not listen. We really needed another plant right now! We also viewed for the second time the largest banyan tree in the continental United States. It was given to Thomas Edison by Harvey Firestone in 1925 and is most impressive today. The tram trip lead by highly knowledgeable guides at the nature center on Sanibel Island is a must for anyone interested in the ecology of subtropical regions.

Plant Pruners: County maintenance staff pruned the plantings at the county Extension office. Some of the plants may survive their attention if we are lucky. I will not be putting any of my time or energy into that planting unless we can be responsible for caring for it. These maintenance people are going to be a real problem if we plant there!

Now is the time to: Collect and purchase seed and supplies for spring and to make a planting schedule. If one intends to grow transplants the seed should be planted by the middle of February. That date will be here before we know it. Cool season transplants can be set out during March and warm season plants, during April or May.

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 a lot more money and time mulching to save time and work later? Lower work levels are the name of the game now at our home.

Final thought: Happy Gardening and New Year everyone!

Well friends, we have made it through another year, and as I reflect on all of our events, projects, and fellowship during 2019, I have to say that we have had one heck of a year full of learning, service, and friendship! I want to thank everyone for participating in the numerous surveys that I circulated in November. I cannot impress upon you how important they are to sustaining horticulture programming through UT Extension and subsequently the Master Gardener program in Madison County.

In November, I presented our preliminary reported numbers to the Madison County Agriculture Committee, and they were so impressed with our impacts that I was invited to come and share a brief update at the Madison County Commissioners' meeting in December. I plan to share our final numbers with you all at our Jan. 2020 Monthly Meeting. Speaking of 2020, we have GREAT plans in store! Go ahead and mark your

calendars for June 10-13th. This is not only our TEMG STATEWIDE conference at Roan Mountain, but will also be our Spring Trip. More information will be coming soon.

From my sweet little family to yours, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas!!



For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

-Luke 2:11

Master Gardener Program

January 2, 2020

Winter Gardening Tasks: In and Out of Doors

Our first program of the 2020 year will feature several members of MCMG on a panel to give you suggestions for improving the health and wellbeing of your plants both inside and out during the shorter, colder days of winter, provide hints for taking care of your tools and reminders on what and when to prune during the winter. Our membership is a large and well trained group, some very experienced in giving programs, dishing out advice and with a store of old lore and some younger with fresh view points and new twists on old problems. Come enjoy what they share and feel free to bring any questions that have been bugging you.

Submitted by Sue Ann Barnes, VP Programs



Brown's Yew

Characterized by extremely slow growth and a natural, globe-like shape, Brown's yew is an evergreen shrub that requires watering twice a week and exposure to full or partial sun.

Wanted!!

Articles for the Newsletter

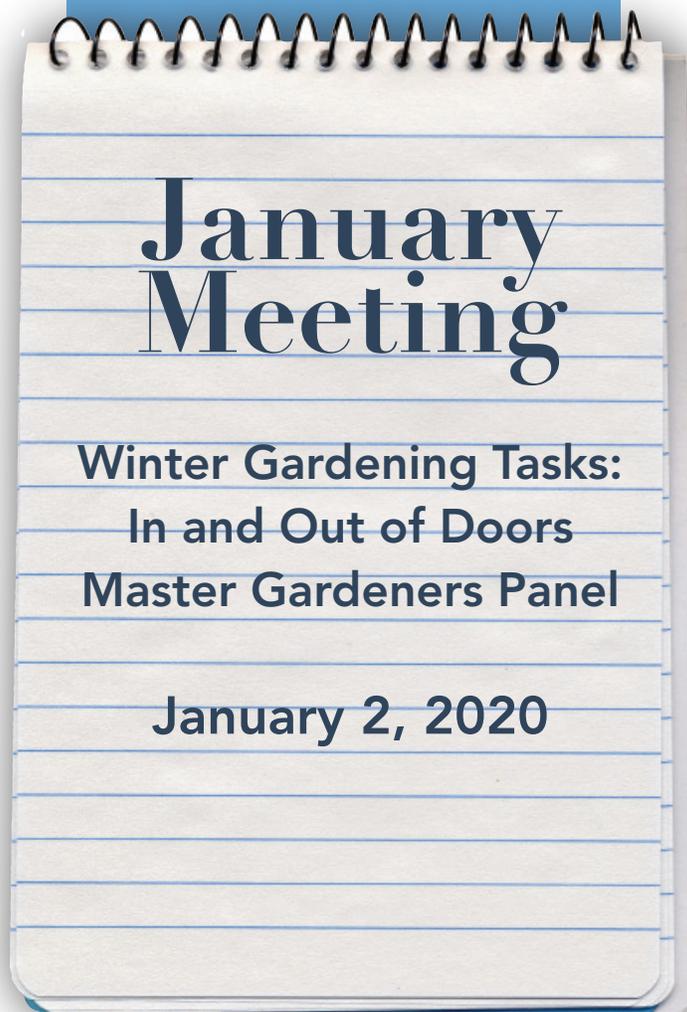
You can earn volunteer hours by writing about some garden you visited, some technique you tried which worked (or did not), or share your enthusiasm for some special plant, or condensing a gardening article you read.

Keep contributing. Keep reading. Keep sharing.

Please send your contributions to:

Liz Whitsitt lizv@tds.net

Pam Stanfield pamstanfield@gmail.com



January Meeting

**Winter Gardening Tasks:
In and Out of Doors
Master Gardeners Panel**

January 2, 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

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Master Gardener financial standing information is available upon request.