From The President

It’s finally Spring according to the calendar! Are you as excited about the upcoming gardening season as I am? Dr. Sams’ informative presentation last month enticed me to begin thinking about plants to try this year. Hopefully everyone was inspired by what he and Carol have accomplished in their beautiful labor of love.

MCMG continues to grow and so does attendance. At the March meeting 118 members signed in and we registered 7 guests. Two of the guests have already signed up to take the Master Gardener classes this fall. We are aware that the line backed up last month as members were waiting to check in and will be making adjustments to help the situation. The food should be blessed by 6:30 so that the line starts moving promptly.

With Spring comes our famous plant sale on May 6. Five more $10 gift certificates will be given out at the April meeting so plan to be present and be sure to sign in.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Edwards,
MCMG President
Hear Ye, Hear Ye . . . May Plant Sale Will Soon Be Here!
Tharon Kirk

Well, “Ole Man Winter” seems to be putting in a late appearance this year! I hope you have been able to dig up some plants and keep them safe and protected for the plant sale. If you have not done so, it is time to divide some of your plants and produce some beautiful specimens for all those folks who will come shopping in May looking for healthy plants. Our shoppers count on us to provide them with plants that we know will survive and thrive here because they have done so in our gardens!

What plants can you bring?
We will take shrubs; perennials; annuals; outdoor plants; houseplants including tropical; herbs; fruit shrubs/trees and vegetables. We will highlight plants that are good for the pollinators again. These plants will have a special red dot sticker to help shoppers easily identify them. Our experience has taught us that people like unusual and hard to find plants, and named varieties. Ferns always go very well and variegated varieties of the more common plants. It is often difficult to predict what will be the most popular items. Remember that if you need help digging up your plants and potting, you can call Celeste and she will find volunteers to help with that!

In recent years we have had a bargain table where everything is $1. This is a place for some of those things that might be very common but that you have plenty of and need to thin out. It is also a place where we put things that just aren’t very big but given time will still grow and thrive. You may have some little plants that could go on this table.

Remember to be picking up boxes when you make grocery trips. In the mornings I can usually count on getting 3 or 4 good strawberry or pineapple boxes when they are replenishing the tables. If you can’t store them at your house, call Celeste and she will let you know where you can take them.

Sign-up sheets will be out at the April meeting. We will need people to work on Wednesday afternoon from 1 - 5 pm (2 shifts), Thursday from 10 am to 5 pm (10 am - 2 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm), and on Saturday morning from 7 am to noon. We will need people to help receive plants, attach labels, help with pricing, and place plants in the appropriate place on Wednesday and Thursday. On the day of the sale, May 6th, we will need greeters, teams of adders, persons to work the holding area, and transporters to help shoppers get their plants to their cars. In addition we will have Brad Moore and
David Barnhill overseeing parking for the plant sale. Please do not show up on the day of the sale expecting to work unless you have signed up or been asked by the committee to perform a specific job. Also, if something comes up and you are unable to work on the day you have signed up, please call Judy Rice (731-695-1424). It is important to be sure that we have enough people working.

The Plant List and Label links are on the Madison County Master Gardener Webpage. If you cannot figure out how to print your own labels, please contact Mary Kay Havranek (mkretired08@gmail.com) or Celeste for help. The printed labels are so much neater and easier for our shoppers to read so please make sure that there are printed labels for your plants.

This year we will be trying to make a count of the number of plants that we have in our plant sale. When you bring your plants, you will be asked to sign a register with your name and the number of plants that you brought. This will enable us to provide better information and also know better how to plan in the future.

Remember to spread the word about the plant sale among your family and friends. Remind folks that we take cash or check but not credit cards. The Board has decided that we will not accept credit cards. Thanks for all you do for Madison County Master Gardeners. You are the ones who make the Plant Sale a success. Keep digging and potting!

We will receive plants on Wednesday, May 3rd from 1 - 5 pm and Thursday from 10AM - 5 PM.

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**Date Night Campfire Party: Botanical Brews**

04/21/2017, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

- Couples, come cozy up for an evening of outdoor fun with winsome, feel-good, tunes by Josh Cosby and Jeremy Stanfill.
- Bernoulli Brew Werks will share how-to's for home brews and you can sample their flavors.
- Explore the Herb Garden and spot some of the natural ingredients that go into your favorite brews.
- Challenge your partner to a round of outdoor lawn games...winner buys the next round! Hot dogs and smores will be provided for roasting over the open fire, and beer will be available for purchase from High Cotton Brewery.
- Enter to win a party bike night with Sprock 'N' Roll. MBG members $12/non-members $15

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**Fri Mar 31, 2017 1 PM - 2 PM**

*Preparing Daffodils for Competition*

Learn grooming, staging and preparing techniques for entering your flowers into the Daffodil Show. Pick young flowers, put them in water and bring them in to get tips from members of the American Daffodil Society about exhibiting your favorite blooms to their best advantage. Free with regular admission.

Location: Dixon Gallery and Gardens Winegardner Auditorium

Website: [http://dixon.org](http://dixon.org)

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**We have many delightful dishes at our meetings. Would you consider sharing recipes? Send recipes to lizv@tds.net**
Sat & Sun Apr 01-02, 2017 2 PM - 5 PM

Dixon Annual Daffodil Show

The Dixon hosts its seventh annual Daffodil Show. Identified species may be entered in the American Daffodil Society accredited exhibition and competition. Daffodils whose names are not known are welcome in the "just for fun" section. Entries will be received Friday, March 31, 12-4 p.m., and Saturday, April 1, 8-9:30 a.m. Volunteers will be available to answer questions and provide educational information about daffodils. The schedule for the accredited show will be available at dixon.org. Free admission.

Dixon Gallery and Gardens,
Winegardner Auditorium. 901-312-1248
http://dixon.org

Fri Apr 07, 2017 9 AM - 4 PM
& Sat Apr 08 9-2

DIXON GARDEN FAIR

Mark your calendar to attend the annual spring plant sale that is a Memphis garden tradition. The sale will feature a wide range of plants from difficult-to-find natives to choice shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Shoppers have an opportunity to choose from an excellent selection of ferns and other shade perennials appropriate for the Memphis area, as well as herbaceous and Itoh peonies. Since this year’s sale coincides with the opening of the Fragrance exhibit, an array of fragrant plants including native azaleas, roses, herbs and more will also be featured. Dixon staff and volunteers will help with plant selections and any gardening questions. Plant list will be available after March 15.

Dixon Gallery & Gardens
4339 Park Avenue Memphis TN 38117

The speaker for the April MCMG meeting is Larry Tucker of the Memphis Hosta Society

The students at South Side are scheduled to give a short update on how our donation of a germination chamber has helped their efforts in horticulture.
Things are well underway with preparations for the Spring Plant Sale. Please keep your eyes and ears open for any new information that may be coming your way via e-mail blasts in the coming month.

My apologies for leaving 2 of our members, Lois and Martha Workman, off of the 5yr membership list in the March Newsletter. I hate to admit that I am a far cry from Mary Poppins’s, but hope to come close one day!!

-Practically Perfect in Every way!! (That’s a joke of course hahahaha…)

**Project Updates**

**Project Accomplishments**

We have placed a leader for the upcoming Earth day Festival as well as the Seed Library for spring 2017. 100K Tree Day was also a success. MCMG’s distributed 650 trees to the citizens of North Madison County. TN Dept. of Conservation also distributed trees serving the southern end of the county. Together we handed out well over 1,500 trees! Tree installation at the Francis Halbrook Hensley Animal Shelter was also a success. I would like to give a BIG thank you to my husband Cody for supplying the trailer and helping with heavy lifting. We hope to continue our partnership with this deserving organization. Classes are underway with the youth from Keep My Hood Good. Thank you to those who have volunteered time to help teach these young minds about growing. They are a great group of young people and this will be a fun project to develop over time. Dr. Sams Hypertufa Workshops were well attended and we appreciate everyone’s willingness to contribute creations to the Spring Plant Sale.

**Leaders needed**

**Hands-up Pre-School-** Ongoing beautification project. We could grow this program to include fun hands on activities for the kids using Ag in the Classroom or Jr. Master Gardener material!

**Farmers Market Info. Booth-** Potential new project. We could set up an information/question/answer booth periodically through the growing season at the West TN Farmers Market. It may be used to help promote the Seed Library as well as other educational horticulture events in our community.

*If you are interested in leading any of these projects or have ideas for NEW projects please contact Glenn Fesmire at glennfes@aol.com

**Opportunities for Service**

**Historic Garden Installation at Parker Crossroads Battlefield**

**Begin preparation/Installation-** April 1st 8:00am

From I-40 East take exit 107 (Parkers Crossroads). Take a right onto Hwy.22 and an immediate Left before the Country Store Gas Station. Follow the access Rd. to the metal building on the Right! You will be greeted by Cheryl Blauvelt. She will take you to the garden site and discuss plans. We have an initial list of plants that we would like to install. If you are planning to attend or would like to participate in the future, please let me know! 731-668-8543. Scout troops will also be there sprucing up the grounds for the spring season as April 1st is Park Day.
Osmocote: As I understand it BWI in Memphis decided that they would not sell osmocote to the MSHS as they had in the past as they are wholesale only and this must be enforced! Dabney’s nursery in Memphis then stepped forward and allowed the hosta society to buy using their account. Somehow the order was changed from the osmocote brand to a wholesale brand and from 19-5-7 to 18-5-12. Both contain ample trace elements which are important to someone growing in soil which is mostly sand as I am. The result of all this is that I now have 1000 pounds of generic slow release fertilizer which is identical to osmocote in appearance and likely in utility stacked in my garage. I will package most of it in 10 and 25 pound lots by our next meeting and pass it on to MCMG for $1.00 a pound rather than the $1.50 that was on my previous sign-up sheet. Those who signed up for it at our last meeting are guaranteed to have their order filled if they are willing to use generic osmocote. If you purchase some thank Dabney’s for making it possible.

Hypertufa: Making hypertufa is one of several items which appear to have gotten away from Carol and me this year. I have carried newly made hypertufa to the April meeting for people to fill and bring to the plant sale in the past. I will bring any that are available to the April meeting this year if we get some made before the meeting. For those who don’t know, I postponed the first hypertufa workshop due snow and excessively bad weather. If we want hypertufa to sell at future plant sales workshops must be held in the fall and the containers held over the winter. I can do that...

Nashville Lawn and Garden Show: Still the premier lawn and garden show in the area in my opinion. Also still a place to spend too much money.

Plant Sale Plants: Plant sale plants are way ahead this year as are my hostas, shrubbry and even redbuds. Some of the plant sale ferns are almost fully grown. Will my cold frames protect them from hard freezes expected this week? If not, will they grow out again and do it quickly enough for the plant sale? The cold frames are tightly closed and covered with an old tarp tonight. Some plants such as soloman’s seal are at the proper stage for transplanting right now but will likely freeze back tonight or tomorrow night.

Weather: As I write this we are expecting 21 degrees tonight. There will be damaged and possibly killed plants but most defoliated plants will leaf back out. Leave them alone until you can tell the state they are in and then treat them normally except for pruning off killed or badly injured portions. Extra fertilizer is probably not called for. We are a month from our average frost free date and can only hope that extreme weather does not occur again before warm weather arrives for the summer.

First Estimates of Winter Injury are below what I expected. Magnolia, azalea and some narcissus flowers are injured or killed. Young expanding leaves of figs, various shrubs, Japanese toad lilies, some ferns and especially hostas were killed. Most of this will grow back out in time but hostas will be smaller than usual.

Thank you: I want to thank those who brought me pots and various gifts at our last few meetings. I am always amazed at the number of people who go out of their way to be nice to Carol and me. The master gardeners are truly our extended family and we appreciate them!
Christine Warrington

After having tried several years to get into the Master Gardener Program while residing in North Carolina, it took a move back to Tennessee and a nudge from her mom to get her to jump right into it here before she even owned a home! She was one of 6 in a class of over 50 to successfully complete the volunteer hours and testing needed to complete the course immediately after class requirements.

A committed mom to a NC State graduate who teaches high school Spanish in Clayton, N.C., Ms. Warrington is thrilled to be back in the state of Tennessee as a resident after almost 40 years of living and traveling throughout the United States. She resides on a beautiful horse farm in Humboldt which she has been diligently renovating with their pets Buddy and Smoky-her horses, 3 new barn kittens-Larry, Moe and Curly and their loyal lab Lincoln who is in heaven chasing squirrels all day. The renovations have already taken considerable note globally with her Airbnb Guest House that’s rents weekly to travelers all over the world.

As well, Ms. Warrington is a nationally certified and trained benefit auctioneer with additional national certifications as an auction technology specialist and as an estate specialist. She served as class president at Nashville Auction School leading the largest auction fundraising event to date for St. Jude’s Hospital during your graduation year.

In her spare time she is active with the University of Tennessee alumni association serving as past president of the North Carolina alumni group and on the board of governors in a marketing capacity. As well, Ms. Warrington has shown additional commitment to her alma mater by joining the ranks of the Alliance of Women Philanthropist. She is an avid traveler and her favorite trip included a week in Iceland snowmobiling across the largest glacier in the European continent with 10 Icelandic women!

Currently she serves as Vice President Rotary Club of Humboldt, TN. and continues consulting work in the biotechnology industry which she has worked in for over 30 years.
I am thankful for...
the mess to clean up after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
...the taxes I pay because it means that I’m employed.
...the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
...my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.
...the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.
...all the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.
...that lady behind me in church who sings off key because it means that I can hear.
...lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
...my huge heating bill because it means that I am warm.
...weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means that I have been productive.
...the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I am alive.

From Two Women and a Hoe
A Note from Celeste Luckey Scott

We have sad news from one of our members. On Wednesday, March 15th Mr. Lois Workman lost his battle with cancer. A memorial service and celebration of life was held on Saturday, March 18th at New Salem Baptist Church, Austin Springs Road in Weakley County, TN. Lois and his wife Martha joined the Madison County Master Gardeners in 2016, transferring from the North West TN Master Gardeners where they had served UT Extension for 6 years. Martha & Lois are true ‘Plant People’ holding several memberships with regional and national plant associations. The Workman’s have cherished the friendliness of MCMG, and I know that everyone will continue to show support for Martha during this difficult time. MCMG’s appreciate Lois’s dedication and willingness to serve the community, and we will miss him greatly. MCMG’s will be installing a memorial brick in his honor at Liberty Park Gardens in Jackson, TN. Cards & Notes will surely be appreciated.

Martha Workman
534 Hunt Rd.
Palmersville, TN 38241
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

Wanted!!
Articles for the Newsletter

April Meeting
Ag Center
6:30 pm

Bring a dish to share.

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)

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Master Gardener financial standing information is available upon request.