



# Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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April 2009

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

## President's Letter

Dear Master Gardeners,

Thank you to the Master Gardeners who came out to the March meeting. I was somewhat disappointed as well as surprised that many of the regular members who are usually present were absent. However, we trust that all is well with each of you. I recognize that many of you are busy with different organizations and projects whose meetings take place on the same night as ours. I would never minimize the importance of the other activities in which you are involved.

However, please take an active role with the Master Gardeners. Your input is very important. For those of you who were absent from the meeting here is the outline of the evening. The meeting was called to order by the President at 6:30 p.m. We are always happy to see interns attending so we welcomed them to the meeting. The treasurer reported the beginning balance of \$8,224.23. One transaction of \$390.00 for Winter School, leaving a balance of \$7,834.23.

Membership dues are presently due in the amount of \$16.00/person. You can drop off or mail those to the agriculture department, Attention: Patsy Boles.

### Announcement:

Graduation will be Thursday, April 16, at Chester Frost Park, 6:30pm. All Master Gardeners are asked to bring a covered dish to help make this a successful feast.

Members who attended Winter School gave highlights of the training. The Siskin project is on hold, but there is much work to be done before we can complete our part.

Since we did not have any nominations for new officers, we will continue with the present officers with a couple of changes. Jean Patton and Jane Gooden are the incoming Board of Governors. Thank you to Jim Keown and Joy Wooden for serving two years.

Gretchen Rominger who has served many years as the certification officer now has voting rights as well as a member of the Board. Joy Wooden is Historian, Stephanie Payne and Lisa Lemza are on the Project Committee. We have used ACE and CEU to record our certification hours. We will now be using ACT, (Administration/Community/Teaching).

For the first time this year we will be voting twice. We will be electing new officials again in November. All current officials will serve for nine more months. We will do our best to serve as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Linda Billingslea



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## BOARD

## BUSINESS

At the March 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, it was decided to add a new officer position to the Board per an amendment to the Bylaws. By a unanimous vote of the Board Members and an affirmative vote by the membership at the March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the position of "Certification Officer" will be added to the Board Officers list. This is an extremely responsible position. As our organization grows, this job requires a great deal more time from this person and should include Board involvement.

The Board has also moved that our annual dues are to be paid and the elections to coincide with the hours reporting requirement which will follow an annual schedule from January 1st thru December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. This also allows our organization to follow the State's schedule of reporting hours and business. If there are questions from the members on how to report hours etc, please ask your Board members or Tom Stebbins to clarify any concerns that you may have.

The Board also approved the creation of a "PROJECTS" tab on the Yahoo site. Mike Smith has set up a committee to work on using the Yahoo site to better advantage. Members, please use the site as often as you can concerning any questions about gardening and other interesting items to share with us all.

The 2009 County Fair theme has been decided upon by the Board and will be called "ART IN THE GARDEN". There will be an announcement soon for getting the project started.

**Another reminder from your Board and the Project Committee. Please fill out a "Project Application" form PRIOR to starting any project. You must get approval first from the committee and then all projects must be signed by our coordinator (Tom Stebbins) prior to beginning a new project. Important!! Please submit all project approval applications to Stephanie Payne or Lisa Lemza before starting any projects.**

Finally, a reminder to all members. Board meetings are open for all members to attend. These are your meetings to listen in on. Regular Board meetings are held at the AG Center on the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

Per Secretary: Donna Smolinski

# April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6pm MG Board Mtg. Internet survey due	3 9 - 5 pm Reflection Riding Plant Sale & Wildflower Festi-	4
5 1 - 5pm Reflection Riding Plant Sale & Wildflower Festival	6 6p-9p Landscape Design @ Ag Center	7 11a-7:00p Eco Expo @ Trade Center 9-12p Landscape Design @ Ag Center	8	9	10	11 Trip to Mary's greenhouse. 8am @ the AG Ctr
12	13 6p-9p Pruning	14 9-12p Pruning	15	16 6:30pm MG Graduation @ Chester Frost Park	17	18 8-2p Crabtree Farms Plant Sale
19 11-3p Crabtree Farms Plant Sale	20	21 Earth Day 	22 5:30-8p Chattanooga Green Community Event@ UTC University	23	24 <b>Deadline for May Newsletter Input to Editor</b>	
26	27 7p Beekeepers Mtg @ Ag Center	28	29	30		

# May 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 9-4p TN Yards & Neighborhoods Program Red Bank	6	7 6pm MG Board Mtg.	8	9 10-2pm Rummage/ Plant Sale, St. Luke UMC, 3210 Social Circle, Chattanooga
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 9-4p TN Yards & Neighborhoods Program Collegedale	20	21 6:30pm MG Mtg. @ Ag Ctr.	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Send May/June CALENDAR EVENTS to Lucie Brant: (lkbrant@aol.com) by Friday, April 24, 2009

## News & Notes:

### **\$Dues are Due**

Your 2009 (\$16 ) membership dues need to be turned in before April 1st to have your name included in the 2009 Membership Directory.

Your ACE HOURS should also be turned in by March 31st, especially if you are receiving a 3-, 5- or 10-year award.

Please mail to:

**UT Extension- Hamilton County  
Master Gardener Resource Room  
6183 Adamson Circle  
Chattanooga, TN 37416**

If you need an ACE Hour form you can go to our MG website [www.mghc.org](http://www.mghc.org) click on Members link, then scroll down to Service Hours reporting form and print one. Treasurer Patsy Boles will also be collecting dues at the Monthly Membership Meeting.

### Hospitality Notes

*Hello from your Hospitality Committee*

The 2009 Hamilton County Master Gardener Graduation Celebration is rapidly approaching. Congratulations New Master Gardener Interns! The celebration will be held at the **Chester Frost Pavilion** on 4-16-09 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. If you plan on joining us, please sign up to bring a food offering: a covered dish, beverages and ice, and/or dessert. The success of our party is enhanced by your generosity and is much appreciated. The committee will provide place settings and decorations. Sign-up sheets will be at the next MG Meeting. You may also sign up by emailing me [dgchivington@Comcast.net](mailto:dgchivington@Comcast.net) or calling me at 423-332-5972.

Yours in *food & fun* "Nise" Chivington - Hospitality Chair .

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The Secrets my Grandmother Knew

by: Carol Mathews

A mother was cooking a roast. Before she put it in the pan, she cut off the end. The little girl watching ask her mother, "Why do you cut off the end of the roast?" The mother answered, because my mother always did. The little girl asked her grandmother the same question and she got the same answer. She then went to her Great-Grandmother and asked, Grammy, why did you cut off the end of the roast before you cooked it? Grammy answered, because it was too big for the pan.

We do so many things because it always was. My Grandmother always planted marigolds throughout her garden. She also saved all her egg shells, coffee grounds, and ashes. I watched her do it for years and consequently I have done the same thing for years.

Recently, while preparing for a class, I was researching the benefits of companion planting and much to my surprise I now know why Granny did what she did. Thought you might like to know also. Marigolds, because of the smell deters unwanted insects and also their roots emit a substance that repels nematodes in the soil. It was suggested that you might plant marigolds in an infected bed just to plow them under to cleanse the soil. Egg shells, crushed, provide calcium and placed near tomatoes they prevent blossom end rot and deter slug and cutworms.

Ashes sprinkled around the perimeter of the garden, deter slugs and snails. **Do not** put around azaleas, rhododendrons, cranberries or blueberries. They don't like it.

Coffee grounds provide high content of nitrogen. Use where needed.

And now for one of my own I actually did by accident one time, place banana peels around roses. Bloomed its little top off. Bananas have potassium that roses love.

For everything under the sun there is reason or there is none.

If there be a reason, find it. If there be none, never mind it.

## Tom's Tidbits for April 2009

### April brings New MG Graduates

The Master Gardener classes are almost completed for the year. There will be a tremendous impact on many gardening volunteer activities throughout the county. So many wonderful projects are planned for this coming year. There are projects that will fit for everyone. I hope everyone gets started right away on something. You can make a big difference in your neighborhood, city, or state.

#### **Have display will travel**

We have a nice display for the Master Gardeners that is useful for many events. There is a green table cover that fits over a six foot table. It has the logo and Master Gardener in big letter. There is also a five foot banner. This can be put on a wall or attached between trees. Just add a few bulletins and some potted plants, flowers, or birdhouses.

Any Master Gardener or intern can use these items for a display. If you have a community event and want to include a Master Gardener booth, that would work.

We keep these items at the Agriculture Building where you took the Master Gardener class. You can contact me to see if they are available.

We will have a booth at a big event called Eco-Expo on April 7<sup>th</sup>. We need several Master Gardeners to help at that. It takes place at the Trade Center downtown from 11am to 7pm.

Another event is called Chattanooga Green on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Master Gardeners will help staff the Food and Agriculture table from 5:30-8pm.

Recently, I have been asked to have Master Gardeners come and have a booth for many "green events" going on in Chattanooga. The Chattanooga Market would like us to come down every Sunday and have a booth. A booth can be simple or as detailed as you want for the event. If someone is interested in doing the booth on Sundays please contact me.

#### **Come to graduation and awards banquet**

I always look forward to graduation night. Graduation is April 16<sup>th</sup>. There are about sixty new Master Gardener interns. This is always a wonderful night. It is a time to meet the other class members from the night or day class. Bring a guest to celebrate the honor of graduating from the class. Chester Frost Park is a beautiful place to visit if you have never been there. We have graduation in the big indoor heated / air conditioned pavilion. No one goes away hungry. Come and meet the outstanding group of regular Master Gardeners. Many will get their 3-, 5- or 10-year awards. Of course there will be door prizes.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom

#### **Announcement:**

There is a growing interest in home gardens of vegetables and herbs. As a result of that, there have been some inquiries concerning a class on canning. I am interested in sharing what I know and would like to put a workshop together if we have some other people who can/preserve foods, willing to share your knowledge and help. If you have an interest in a canning workshop, please E-mail [sew4u@att.net](mailto:sew4u@att.net) or call Carol Mathews @706-375-6098.

## *Winter School Recap:*

Hamilton County attendees at the 2009 Master Gardeners Winter School were:

Jean Anglin, Patsy Boles, Lisa Clark, Jane Goodin, Bud Hines, Holly Jones, Rena Keane, Carol Mathews, Clyde Mathews, Ray Miller, Mike Payne, Tom Stebbins, Lynne Wilson & Joy Wooden.

Below are edited comments from some of the attendees;

"As a newly certified Master Gardener Class of 2008, this was my first opportunity to attend Winter School. The main impression that I came away with from Winter School was the influence that the MG program has statewide. Listening to these MGs discuss their projects made me realize the significant impact that Master Gardeners can have on the community and therefore on our environment."

***Holly Jones, 2008***

"We saw great presentations on ways to prevent storm water runoff with the use of rain gardens, cisterns and permeable surfaces. There were many presentations, but I truly enjoyed some of the quick tips I learned in the class on PowerPoint presentations. Anyone wanting to increase their teaching skills for our organization should consider attending a future Winter School."

***Bud Hines, 2006***

"Very well organized by hardworking folks. Everyone was willing to share ideas at break-outs. Food service was, easy...quick...and delicious. Presenters knew the subject well. Facilities...though "practical" were adequate and comfortable. It was great to meet new people, and know there are others out there working for the benefit of all."

***Jean Anglin, 2005***

"I learned that we need to be better stewards of our planet earth, conserving our natural resources, especially water and not over fertilizing and protecting our environment by not polluting. I guess I got a lot out by meeting master gardeners from all over Tennessee and listening to what is going on in their towns or area. What a nice group of folks and what they had to say, making new friends is what I especially like to do."

***Raymond Miller, 2007***

"Leadership sector: I helped teach about the responsibilities of the President and Vice-President and discuss potential problems that can show up."

"Educational sector: I taught (by PowerPoint) "The Basics of Using Rain Gardens in the Landscape"

***Mike Payne, 1994***

"We went to the teaching part of the February Winter School. The day and a half sessions were on water conservation. The speaker from UT showed what had been accomplished on the campus through the use of water gardens. This was a beneficial class for us personally as we have quite a runoff from our property we are most interested in the idea. We want to keep the rain water for our own trees. Now, we need to make a plan."

***Clyde, 2007 and Carol Mathews, 2006***

### **"Quote of the Month"**

***"The success of my garden is built on the compost of my failures!"***

*~Jimmy Turner, Dallas Arboretum Trial Gardens*

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

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Board Members & Chairpersons

2008-2009

Master Gardener Officers:

- President– Linda Billingslea
- Vice President– Jeff Jarrett
- Secretary– Donna Smolinski
- Treasurer– Patsy Boles
- Past President/Advisor– Stephanie Payne
- Master Gardener Coordinator– Tom Stebbins
- Certification Officer-Gretchen Rominger
- New Class Rep: Lisa Clark, Holly Jones

1 Year Members

- Bud Hines
- Jim Keown
- Joy Wooden

2 Year Members

- James Gumnick
- Karen Webster
- Rena Keane

Master Gardeners Committee

Chairpersons-

Bonny Oaks Arboretum:

Elaine Barker

Budget/Finance:

Pasty Boles

County Fair Committee-

TBD

Crabtree Garden Plot:

Linda Billingslea

Food Bank Garden Tour:

Susan Babineau

Historian:

Joy Wooden

Hospitality Committee:

Denise Chivington

Decoration and Door Prize Committee

Lisa Clark

Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden:

Mike Payne

Photo Directory:

Wanda Wilkey

Project Committee:

Stephanie Payne

Newsletter Editor:

Jerry Smolinski

Service Hours (ACT):

Gretchen Rominger

Website Committee:

Mike Smith