



# Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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April 2011

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

## President's Letter

Wonderful opportunities! I just looked at my calendar for April. There are so many exciting events this month whether you are volunteering or just attending. Starting with the field trip to Mary's Greenhouse in McMinnville on April 2 to the Graduation on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Chester Frost Pavilion. It looks our weekends are full and maybe some of them are double booked! Please note the Graduation is on the forth Thursday this year. (See page 6 in this newsletter for a complete list of MG projects.)

Winter school was great. I enjoyed the total experience, reconnecting with other Master Gardeners from around the state, getting new teaching ideas, and the interaction with our own great team. Thanks again to everyone who helped with the Master Gardener social gathering and congratulations to all of us for our new Search for Excellence shovel.

I spent wonderful days in March rearranging and planting my flower beds. Some women rearrange the furniture in their homes. I rearrange my yard instead. Now I am ready for shopping at Mary's. By the way, you can download their catalog on the internet (of course they will give you one when you get there) but you can download one if you want a preview. I use it to make my want list. [http://www.marysgh.com/uploads/Mary\\_s\\_2011\\_retail.pdf](http://www.marysgh.com/uploads/Mary_s_2011_retail.pdf)

My greenhouse has kept me busy also. My tomato plants have done really well. I am trying an old heirloom this year, Cherokee Purple for the first time and a new little grape one, called Sugary.

This year I will be testing seven of the Tropicanna Cannas for Tesselaar. They will be send me two orange/red, two gold and three of the new Black Tropicanna rhizomes to plant in my garden for testing.

I encourage each of you to get involved in the new Bud Sprout Program. This is a terrific way to learn from and teach each other. As the Sprouts gain knowledge from the Certified Master Gardeners, the Master Gardener will learn new ways of teaching and new friends.

Happy Spring and Gardening

Patsy Boles, President

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### **March 2011 Board Business**

Winter School 2011 was a great success with approximately 170 Master Gardeners attending from the State of Tennessee. Our Hamilton County organization came home with a Search For Excellence award for presentation for the Chattanooga Market entry. Thanks to the 25 Master Gardeners who helped at the market in 2010. Master Gardeners and Interns will be needed to do this project again this year.

April will be an event and workday filled month. Everyone can earn lots of hours starting this month.

Our organization is looking into how our financial statements will be filed this year. As we grow, our income needs to follow IRS guidelines. Tom Stebbins is working with UTK on which filing we are going to use to be in compliance with the laws.

One new project request has been approved. See the projects list on our website (also on page 6 of this newsletter) for more information. (mghc.org)

For the Board,

Donna Smolinski, Secretary

### **New Yahoo Groups Tips**

Yahoo Groups is a great way to send messages to the entire group. You can post messages directly from Yahoo Groups if you are logged into your account online – look to the left column of your page, select “Messages” and under that “Post.” By default, you will be posting a message to the entire group. If you just want to send a message to one member, you will need to select the member under “Members” and then “Search Members.” Once you have found the individual, select “Send Message” under their name.

You can also send a message from your own email program (i.e., Outlook, Eudora, et al) by addressing the message to [mghcmembers@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mghcmembers@yahoogroups.com). This will only work if you are sending this message FROM the primary email account that you selected in your Yahoo Groups membership settings. This means you can't send a message FROM your work account email program unless you set it up as your primary email address. If you changed your email account and didn't change your email address in Yahoo Groups, you won't be able to send messages until you make this change in your Membership Contact Information.

If you don't know what email address Yahoo Groups uses as your primary address, just go to this link: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mghcmembers/join> and see which email address is selected under Step 1. This is where you make changes to your email address setting, by the way, as well as your other Yahoo Groups membership settings. If you make a change *remember to hit the “Save Changes” button before your exit!*

## Calendar Events (for more events, see [mghc.org](http://mghc.org))

### April

#### April 2, Saturday

North Chickamauga Creek Conservancy, 9:45am –12:00pm  
MG's will present soil, composting, rain barrels and Q&A table.

#### April 2, Saturday

Trip to Mary's greenhouse in McMinville

#### April 4, Monday

Chattanooga Natives meet at the CAFB at 6:00 pm.  
Speaker is Jim Brown, TRGT executive director

#### April 5, Tuesday

Chattanooga Herbies meet at the CAFB at 6:30 pm.

#### April 7, Thursday

Eco Expo at the Chattanooga Convention Center,  
10:00am—7 pm. MG's will demonstrate rain barrels.

#### April 7, Thursday

MG board meeting @ 6:00 pm @ the AG center

#### April 8, 9, 10, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Reflections Riding Spring Plant Sale.

Friday-Saturday, 9:00am-5:00pm, Sunday, 1:00pm-5:00pm.

#### April 9, Saturday

Creative Discovery Museum, 12:00pm—4:00 pm. Interaction  
with children about gardening.

#### April 8, 9 & 10, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

AEE @ Crabtree Farms and the CAFB. Rain barrels at  
CAFB, Soil, composting and MG Q&A table at Crabtree  
Farms. Call 423.493.9155 or 423.622.1800 for times.

### April

#### April 16 & 17, Saturday & Sunday

Crabtree Farms Spring Plant Sale. Saturday 8:00am-3:00pm,  
Sunday, 11:00am-3:00pm. MG's will have a Q&A table, com-  
posting @ 10:00am and rain barrels on Sat. @ 1:00pm. Con-  
tainer and Raised bed gardening on Sunday @ 1:00pm

#### April 20, Wednesday

Wildflower Tour in Bridgeport, AL. See mghc.org for details

#### April 28, Thursday

MG interns graduation party at Chester Frost park @ 6:00 pm

### May

#### May 5, Thursday

MG monthly board meeting @ 6:00pm

#### May 7, Saturday

Wildflower Tour in the Benton falls/ McKamy Lake area of the  
Cherokee national forest. See mghc.org for details.

#### May 14, Saturday

Rain barrel workshop at the CAFB. 10am

#### May 19, Thursday

MG monthly member's meeting @ 6:00pm

#### May 20, Friday

McKee Foods wellness fair

Location: McKee Foods on Apison Pike in Collegedale,  
12:00pm –6:00pm

Send May CALENDAR EVENTS to [lkbrant@aol.com](mailto:lkbrant@aol.com) by Monday, April 25, 2011

Send June CALENDAR EVENTS to [lkbrant@aol.com](mailto:lkbrant@aol.com) by Wednesday, May 25, 2011

### 'In case you missed it'

Stephanie Payne gave a Power-Point presentation about butterflies and how to attract butterflies to your garden.

### *The "Master Your Garden" radio show*

*Mike and Stephanie are on WPLZ on Saturday morning from 9 to 11a.m. to help listeners with their gardening questions. Do you or your friends and neighbors need some gardening help?*

Email: [masteryourgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:masteryourgarden@yahoo.com) Phone: 423-702-9111

## Website, Yahoo Groups and Newsletter posting Policy

**Purpose:** Define information that may be communicated to MGHC members and the public through MGHC private and public communication channels at the request of non-affiliated groups or organizations. Private communication channels include MGHC member newsletters, Yahoo Groups, the members-only section of the website and other email-based communications. Public communication channels includes the public section of the MGHC website.

**Policy:** "It is the policy of the MGHC to communicate information about events sponsored by groups not affiliated with the MGHC, Tennessee Master Gardeners and the University of Tennessee only if the events provide members an opportunity to earn continuing education units (CEUs) or service hours. The MGHC newsletter editor and website administrator may deny any post or submission that does not fit these criteria. Members may, however, freely post items of general gardening interest, to include personal observations as well as non-commercial notice of bargains and availability of plant/gardening material(s).

Nothing in this policy statement is intended to limit a member's involvement in outside organizations or right to communicate directly with other members via public or private communication channels.

Adopted January 14, 2010,  
Revised 2-16-10

### *Budsprout*

Now that you have read the Bud Sprout Program's description in the March newsletter, we hope you will consider volunteering to be an intern mentor.

You may remember back when you were an intern trying to certify and not knowing what to do next? Perhaps you felt insecure or alone but the desire to garden overcame your fears. Here is your chance to make a difference with our new students. Please help them become part of our wonderful community group.

Project leaders will also find a vast number of volunteers for your projects and a quick way to grow your ranks. Influencing newly educated gardeners is a great way to inject fresh ideas into any endeavor. The interns are jazzed up with fresh knowledge and motivation.

Please contact Barbara Blankenship at [babs1@epbf.com](mailto:babs1@epbf.com) or Denise Chivington at [dgchivington@comcast.net](mailto:dgchivington@comcast.net) or call 423-332-5972 and we will get started growing our sprouts :)

Thank you for your attention.  
Nise

### *Be More Awards*

At a ceremony held March 9, 2011 WTCI-PBS honored local individuals and organizations dedicated to helping the community and all its citizens to reach their best potential with the 2011 WTCI Be More Awards™. Winners in six categories were announced: **Association for Visual Arts (AVA), James Moreland, Junior League of Chattanooga, Medical Foundation of Chattanooga, Signal Centers' Assistive Technology Center** and **Volunteers in Medicine**. The awards ceremony featured keynote speaker Gwen Ifill of Washington Week and The PBS NewsHour. The ceremony was held at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The Master Gardeners of Hamilton County were runners-up in the 'More Enriched' and More Engaging' categories.

"The Tennessee Valley has such a strong, hardworking nonprofit and volunteer community," said Paul Grove, WTCI president and CEO. "The efforts of these organizations are incredibly inspiring, and WTCI is honored to be in the position to provide recognition to these worthy organizations with our annual Be More Awards. It is wonderful to gather together with the community to celebrate the spirit of goodwill. Congratulations to this year's winners and finalists, and thank you to our partners and volunteers for their hard work in making this ceremony a success."

WTCI worked in partnership with Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga, The United Way's Center for Nonprofits and a volunteer steering committee as well as a panel of volunteer judges for the 2011 Be More Awards™.

Organizations throughout WTCI's viewing area were encouraged to submit applications for this year's awards in Sept. 2010. Applications were scored on an impartial basis by a panel of judges from WTCI's viewing area, and were based on the quality of the program/project and, where applicable, *quantitative* results.

**To bring further recognition to the Chattanooga area's nonprofit community, WTCI will produce a program featuring the award winners, which will air on WTCI in early summer.**

Applications for the 2012 Be More Awards™ will be available in September 2011. Information about the awards categories as well as the applications will be available at [www.BeMoreAwards.com](http://www.BeMoreAwards.com).

## Winter School Reflections

### Comments from some of the 2011 Winter School attendees:

This was a great experience and the importance of doing a presentation the right way was a good learning experience. All the subjects were great. New certified master gardeners should attend each year.

*Freeman Powell*

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Winter School is always very informative and motivating for all those who attend. All of the classes were exceptionally good this year right from the very first speaker. One of the classes I took was on photography.

*Carol Mathews*

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Organizational: Step up and take part. Stop sitting back and waiting for someone to speak up. Your idea may be different, but it may still be a good one.

*Jane Goodin*

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Best tip I got was to use tri-fold brochures. It's popular because it is a single piece of paper with pertinent information and several pictures. It will generally gain the readers attention and force the writer to be concise. Brochures can be made with templates from Word 2007.

*Katie Bishop*

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Winter school was a great time to see program ideas from other counties. Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners won an award for their work a medical facility. The plantings helped people and their families deal with the grief of operations. Benches and areas for contemplating were great. Maybe there would be a place in Chattanooga where we could match something like this.

*Tom Stebbins*

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Winter School is a perfect opportunity to "get into the thick" of the Master Gardener Program. The networking with other like-minded individuals from different counties is encouraging and idea stimulating. There is always so much to learn about gardening and techniques, that there is never a dull moment.

*'Nise' Chivington*

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As of this Winter School's continuing education program, I am now the State Advocates Board Chairman. I will be trying to establish the new State By-Laws and pushing forward with a Five-year growth plan.

*Mike Payne*

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Beth Babbit and the State Advocates did an outstanding job of presenting classes to help us become better Speakers and better Leaders. We learned many ways that we can benefit our local agricultural agents and the volunteer efforts of UT Extension in our own communities.

*Bud Hines*

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It was a very well organized program. Hosts were friendly and most helpful. The silent auction was supported, and the 'kids' (goats) were so cute and quite a topic of conversation. Speakers had great credentials, knowledge, and were anxious to share information.

*Jean Anglin*

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Winter School always inspires me to bring back new ideas to our organization. Communication between our members always needs more attention and ideas on how to improve plays an important part in keeping our organization at its best.

We have made a difference in our State and are now setting examples for other State groups.

*Donna Smolinski*

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This event helped me see the bigger picture of the purpose of the Master Gardeners. Meeting other MG's from across the state and hearing the inspirational and informative presentations, I learned techniques for making effective presentations and strategies for solving organizational problems.

*Diane Slover*

**MG PROJECTS CORNER:****Current projects list**

1. Hamilton County Fair
2. Hummingbird and Butterfly garden
3. Master Gardener Hotline
4. Chattanooga Area Food Bank Garden Tour
5. New Master Gardener Mentor Program
6. Chattanooga Area Food Bank Demonstration Garden
7. Chattanooga Market at the Tennessee Pavilion
8. Tennessee Aquarium
9. Siskin Early Learning Center
10. Chattanooga Area Food Bank
11. Crabtree Farms
12. Habitat for Humanity
13. Greenway Farms Restoration Project
14. Seeding the Cumberlands
15. A Children's Garden (CSTCC Child Development Center)
16. CCS Student Gardens
17. Hospice Care Center of East Brainerd
18. Brainerd United Methodist Church Landscaping
19. Abba's House Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden
20. St. Alban's Community Garden
21. The Mitchell Street Garden
22. The Gathering Garden
23. Brainerd Community Garden and Grace Gardens

Contact Stephanie Payne @ 423-842-3743 or [spayne@cbizmmp.com](mailto:spayne@cbizmmp.com) for more project information.

**Full guidelines for projects can be found on page 25 of the 2011 MGHC Directory.**

***“Gardening throughout the year”, a guide for Tennessee Gardeners***

## *April*

### *Trees and shrubs*

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs like forsythia, weigela, Japanese quince and lilac within two to three weeks after the last petals have dropped .
- Fertilize and prune azaleas and camellias back into shape after they have finished blooming.

### *Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs*

- Edge your garden beds.
- Prune any semi-woody perennials like Salvia greggii, lavender, sage, Artemisia and careopteris
- Add wood ashes to peonies when pink is showing and to clematis, delphinium and lilacs.
- Clean your pond or water feature and remove winter and dead plant debris.
- Divide water garden and bog plants.
- Plant dahlias after the 15th.
- Begin staking tall perennials that tend to fall over.
- Add well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost to your annual planting beds.
- Wait to plant annuals until after the 15th.

### *Fruit, Vegetables and Herbs*

- Transplant strawberries and perennial herbs.
- Harvest early greens, onions and herbs, (cilantro, mints, thyme, sage, rosemary and oregano)
- Continue to plant cool-season vegetables.

### *Miscellaneous*

- Enjoy blooming wildflowers, bulbs, spring-flowering trees and shrubs (azalea, rhododendron, kalmia.)

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<http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/>  
<http://mghc.org/>

### Board Members & Chairpersons

#### 2011

##### Master Gardener Officers:

*President – Patsy Boles*

*Vice President – Charlene Griffin*

*Secretary – Donna Smolinski*

*Treasurer – Carol Mathews*

*Certification Officer – Gretchen Rominger*

*Newsletter Editor – Jerry Smolinski*

##### 1 Year Members

*Denise Chivington*

*Bud Hines*

*Mike Payne*

##### 2 Year Members

*Lisa Clark*

*Katie Bishop*

*Barb Blankenship*

*MG Coordinator – Tom Stebbins*

##### Master Gardeners Committee

###### Chairpersons-

###### Bonny Oaks Arboretum:

*Jack Townsend*

###### Budget/Finance:

*Carol Mathews / Patsy Boles*

###### County Fair Committee:

*Bud Hines*

###### Hospitality Committee

*Lisa Clark*

###### Events Coordinator:

*Donna Smolinski*

###### Food Bank Garden Tour:

*Jo Lawrence*

###### Historian:

*Joy Wooden*

###### Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden:

*Mike Payne*

###### Membership Directory:

*Wanda Wilkey*

##### Mentor Coordinator

*Ron Bohrer*

###### MG Hotline:

*Florio Giolli*

*Peggy Dyer*

###### Newsletter Editor:

*Jerry Smolinski*

###### Nominating Committee:

*Diane Slover*

*Denise Chivington*

###### Project Committee:

*Stephanie Payne*

###### Scholarship Committee

*Denise Chivington*

*Tom Stebbins*

###### Speakers Bureau:

*Sue Henley*

###### State Advocate:

*Mike Payne*

###### Communications Committee:

*Sally Wencel*