

Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine



UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

Volume 15, Issue 8

August 2008

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

President's Letter

Allow me to continue with my facts from the Winter School session. I focused more on recognition last month for several reasons. For the most part most of you are quite busy making a difference in the community every week. Most of those efforts go unrecognized. We know that you are busy because many of you have already completed your certification hours. Thank you for making the Hamilton County Master Gardener Program shine.

This month I would like to focus on communication, involvement and retaining membership. Sometimes when we think that we are effectively communicating with others we fail. Often this is due to how we learn. Therefore we have to reach the person through one of two methods. Depending on the person he/she must listen (hear), or read (see) what you are attempting to communicate. We cannot always talk face to face about the situation. Therefore, we must use other forms of communication. When important issues arise, fast and inexpensive ways to communicate are through

phone calls or through the use of email. After an activity, send a note to those who didn't attend saying "Here's what you missed". Collect email addresses and telephone numbers regularly to keep an up to date roster. Remember, the least active members should be contacted for their opinions. This is also a way to retain membership. Involvement: people are more likely to get involved when they feel needed or have a specific role. Please hear my heart, It is very important for us to hear and respect others opinions. Why members leave the organization? Here are reasons people leave: There were some minor /major disagreements within the organization. The group made some decisions that they couldn't agree to support. They may have left due to not being elected to an office, or getting the committee appointment they wanted, or otherwise didn't get their way. They did not renew because they thought meetings were chaotic or boring.

Meetings were too long. Members do little other than listen to leaders talk. They complained but no one paid attention. Actions of the executive committee were not explained. The group didn't seem able to accomplish its stated purposes. The group didn't meet their needs or measure up to their expectations. A small clique has all the power and does not encourage others to get involved. Members felt they could not achieve required volunteer hours. They feel burned out! There are solutions to each of the issues above and I would like to ask that we remember that we should treat other as we would like to be treated. When we treat each other with LOVE Hamilton County Master Gardeners will retain a higher membership level. Thank you to those members who attended the August 7th meeting. We Thank You for understanding that we needed to polish some areas in private. Thank you for cooperating. We are growing therefore we are working to make the crooked things straight and the rough areas smooth. I appreciate you all!

August Master Gardener Meeting, August 21st 6:30pm

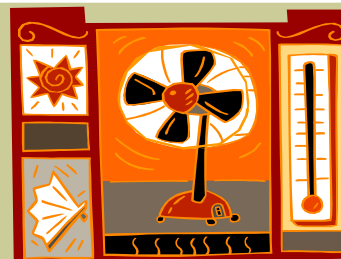
The August membership meeting will be held at the Ag Center on the third

Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The speaker for that meeting will be Se-

quatchie Valley Institute Speaker on sustainable living topic.

In a Nut Shell:

Upcoming Events	2
News Items	3
Tom's Tidbits	4
News Items	5



Upcoming Events

Crabtree Farms has pick your own blackberries!

Tuesday-Saturday 9am-1pm at Crabtree Farms

Call for harvest availability.423-493-9155 x-14

- Greenhouse Growing - Farmer For a Day**
Thursday, August 28th, 10 am - 1 pm
Cost: Member: FREE
 Non-Member:FREE
Instructor: Mike Barron, Crabtree Farms Greenhouse Manager
Summary: This informal training will introduce participants to growing in a greenhouse. Mike Barron, Crabtree's Greenhouse Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to grow and care for perennials and annuals in a greenhouse setting. He will share his growing knowledge, from pruning to hardening plants through question and answer. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). **Call 493-9155 for more information.**

Rabbit manure available



Becky's Bunnies in Cleveland has a supply of rabbit manure for sale. \$25 for a pickup load.

Call (423) 472-2766

AUGUST 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Membership Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



SEPTEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Gardening News:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR C HOURS

The Chattanooga Nature Center in Lookout Valley has asked for some assistance from the Master Gardeners to work on some small gardens in the "Wildlife Wanderland". These gardens are full of natives that are overgrown and weedy. The gardens need renovating so they will look nice, as they are in an area that is highly visible to visitors. There are a couple of other MG's working there at the present, however, they are in another section of the Nature Center. If you have the time and need the volunteer hours, this should be a fun area to work, because the gardens are located around where the animals are kept for the public to visit. There are several gardens each of different sizes. They especially would like to have these gardens in good shape by next spring and have requested help from MG's because they want to protect the native plants, as well as perennials in these gardens.

The Chattanooga Nature Center is an approved Master Gardener site and is located at 400 Garden Road, Chattanooga, TN 37419. The Wildlife Curator is Tish Gilmard and she can be reached at 423.821.1160 x103. Please check in at the office when you get there so that someone can show you where these particular gardens are located. Tish says these are on the back side of Lookout Valley. The Nature Center is open Monday – Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm beginning in April and ending 1st weekend in November.

Should you need any additional information, please contact me.

Sue Henley

Master Gardeners' Project Chair

Thehenhouse2@comcast.net

Home: 894.1103

Cell: 488.9011

Pictures Please!!!



If you have extra pictures of Master Gardener events, newspaper clippings, or anything concerning the Hamilton County Master Gardeners, please send them to:

Donna Adams

1507 Ridge Point Road

Hixson, TN 37343

Please make sure the date and name of the event is written down. If we do not get these mementos from our Master Gardeners then others in years ahead will not be able to see our accomplishments. Donna Adams, Historian

Tom's Tidbits for August 2008

Hats off to the Master Gardener Board

The Master Gardeners of Hamilton County has become a busy group. During the last four years, since I have been here, I have watched the Master Gardener Board do some amazing things. With their leadership the Association has put on four unbelievable Hamilton County Fair Exhibits. This year the exhibit promises to be educational, interesting and engaging for people attending the fair. Many people go to the fair just to see our gardening exhibit. The board often has to make some tough decisions. The state coordinator guides the county groups. I can also act as an advisor as well. The Master Gardeners in each county decide what projects they want to support. I have heard comments like Master Gardeners should not do fund raising, I have heard Master Gardeners should not fund projects. I myself will often say I wish Master Gardeners would not pull so many weeds. Hey, Master Gardeners should be educators not free labor.

I think there has to be flexibility in every Master Gardener program. There may be a time and place for lots of different activities. Sometimes it takes money, labor, and

even weed pulling to get a project to a different level. Hopefully we can incorporate a good dose of education in all of these efforts. Sometime labor and money is a means to an end. Some projects need a little push. Other may need a big kick.

The board is grappling with many of these issues. As the group grows there are more issues that come up.

We seem to always attract smart people to our board. They don't always agree with each other. Decisions have to be made. Votes are taken. Life goes on.

As the advisor and sometime arbitrator for the group I often see both sides of the issues. I can see the merits on both sides of the fence.

In a year of elections, issues, parties and often politics I hope we can agree to compromise on each gardening dilemma that comes up. Many times we are plowing new ground.

I encourage you to get involved. You can steer a committee or become an officer so you can vote and make a difference. Thanks

to all past and present board and committee members. You make it happen. Our Hamilton County group is the best run organization in the state.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom

Gardening News:

Landscape architect cashes in on 'green' doghouses

Landscape architect Stephanie Rubin, owner and lead designer of [Sustainable Pet Design](#), is working with sculptor Chris Isner to sell [green-roof doghouses](#). The Greenrrroof Animal Homes with rooftop gardens sell for \$1,000-\$4,000, reported L.A. Times. Plants used by Rubin are mostly native, pet-friendly, nonpoisonous and don't require pesticides or fertilizer. The newspaper said her favorites include *Fragaria vesca* and *F. chiloensis*, sedums, particularly *Sedum acre*, *Dudleya* and *Achillea millefolium*. Other plants used by Rubin are *Galvezia speciosa*, *Heuchera* and *Festuca glauca*.

Gardening News:

Hospitality Notes

Hello - I would like to take this opportunity and recognize the hard working Master Gardener Members who have volunteered to be on the Hospitality Committee: Lisa Clark (décor and door prize specialist); Jean Mauroner; Rena Keane; Terry Taylor; Jane Elmore; Lisa Ladd; Tina Fiorito; Jean Pickles; Patti Giles; Gretchen Rominger and Bud Hines advisors.

We thank you for your courage and fortitude. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of you (the membership) for your participation in our meetings and all of the year's upcoming events.

At our next fun and meet, the Fair BBQ, our recycle theme inspires us to ask members to consider (but not require) bringing their own reusable plates, silverware, and cups. Sign-up sheets for food and beverage donations as well as who is coming, how many in their party, and what their BBQ preference is: beef or pork (sorry about the chicken slip J), will be at the August membership meeting. Please see one of the Hospitality Committee Members at the next membership meeting to sign-up. You may also call me to sign-up as well 423-332-5972. Of course, place settings will be provided for those who do not wish to participate. Bring out that picnic basket and let's have fun!

Happy Gardener – Nise (Hospitality Chair)

Judging Criteria for Vegetables at the Fair

If someone were to ask you to be a judge at the fair, what would you say? Better yet, what would you do? Here is basic advice for judging specimens at the fair

First of all if there is a publication for judging at your specific fair, please read the criteria. Many county fairs do not have a publication for you to read. You do need to read the county fair book guidelines for preparing the exhibits and this will help. The first thing you should know is make sure the correct number of specimens are entered. If the rules ask for 4 tomatoes on each plate, and you see there are only 2 tomatoes – well that rule is broken.

Is the specimen labeled correctly? Is the specimen in prime condition (fresh)? Are the leaves wilting – Has the lettuce turned brown or the cabbage smelling?

Do all of each specimen look alike or are there 2 short pods of okra and 4 long pods? (Okra should be small pods that are fresh, bright green and less than 3 inches long. No woody fibrous okra with harden seeds- ½ inch stem should be left on and the okra should be cleaned by wiping with dry or moist cloth, or by brushing.) Are the root crops dirty or have they been cleaned like moms silverware? What about the color of the specimen? Is the color uniform and ready for harvest or green, not quite ready to pick? Do you see insect damage and or there blemishes? Are the specimens true-to-type or do they need to be in another class which will accommodate more variety?

Displaying your crops is one way to take pride in producing quality vegetables. Gardening is fun and relaxing but you will increase your enjoyment by growing prize winning vegetables and you will increase your knowledge by learning the criteria for **judging vegetables** at the fair. One day you may be asked to be a judge at the fair.

Donna Adams

Past-President HCMG



**MASTER GARDENERS OF
HAMILTON COUNTY**

PO BOX 25194
Chattanooga, TN 37422

Phone: 423-855-6113
Fax: 423-855-6115
Email: Garden@MGHC.org



[http://
mastergardeners.tennessee.edu/](http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu/)

Board of Governors

2007-2008

Master Gardener Officers:

President– Linda Billingslea

Vice President– Jeff Jarrett

Secretary– Ron Bohrer

Treasurer– Pasty Boles

Past President/Advisor– Sue Henley

Master Gardener Coordinator–

Tom Stebbins

Certification Officer–Gretchen Rominger

New Class Rep: Cheryl Hamrick

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:

Nancy Williams

County Fair Committee-

Charlene Smith

Lynn Wilson

Crabtree Garden Plot:

Linda Billingslea

Food Bank Garden Tour:

Susan Babineau

Historian:

Donna Adams

Hospitality Committee:

Denise Chivington

***Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden
Chairperson:***

Mike Payne

Photo Directory:

Wanda Wilkey

Project Committee:

Sue Henley

Gretchen Rominger

Jill Stebbins

Newsletter Committee:

Gina Turley

Lucie Brant

Service Hours (ACE/CEU):

Gretchen Rominger

Website Committee:

Mike Smith