Diggin Up the Past

June's master gardener meeting was held at the Bat Caves of Nickajack in Marion County. Mike Dailey, a Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency officer presented a program on bats. There are a number of different bats, but those that frequent the Nickajack caves are gray bats. Gray bats spend approximately 8 months a year at the Nickajack cave (March through October). The Nickajack caves house approximately 60,000 bats. In October the bats mate and the females do not become pregnant until March (you had to be there for this explanation!). After wintering in other caves (near McMinnville, where it is colder) female bats give birth to their "pups" in March. Being that bats are mammals, they nurse their pups for 3 weeks and then the baby bats are ready to forage for insects on their own. By 3 weeks they must have their flight skills and sonar skills honed in order to keep from drowning in the lake and/or avoid predators such as owls. Other predators are raccoons which go into the caves and pull bats off the walls for their meal.

Other bat facts:

- Bats' sonar is more accurate than a nuclear sub
- Bats generally have only 1 or 2 pups
- Female bats give birth while hanging upside down by their toes
- Bats have good vision
- Gray bats are endangered

It is a violation of law to go into the Nickajack caves. (Fines are levied for fishing too close or encroaching on the refuge.) The caves at Nickajack were established as a refuge about 10 years ago. The best time to view the bats is at dusk.

July's Meeting

The July meeting will be held at the Ag Center and will start at 7:00 PM on the 17th of the month. The program will be on Bluebirds. Come and join us and learn how to attract these beautiful and beneficial birds to your yard.

Don't forget to bring your completed ACE Hour form with you.

Master Gardener WebSite

Master Gardeners are looking for a person or persons who are interested in helping develop a website with limited resources. If anyone is interested and willing to help with this project please call Tommy Jackson or Kelly Jackson.
Joe's Corner

The end of the first quarter has arrived. Please complete your ACE Form by recording hours performed between April 1 and June 30, 2003. Directions on how to complete the form are on the back of the sheet. Master Gardeners in the 2003 class may record hours from the beginning of classes, January 13 to June 30. Reminder to new members: the hours you spent in the Monday night MG classes do not count toward your 35 hours. Enclosed is a copy of the ACE form. Please complete these hours and return them by mail or at our next regular meeting. Only 30 of 114 MG Photo Directories. If you have not received yours, please drop by the office or come to the next meeting to pick these up. I'm sorry but no directories will be mailed. July 14 and 15, 2003 are the days of the Summer Express in Collegetale. This event costs $40 to MG's an increase of $5 from last year but does include your meals for both days if you pre-register. You should have received a letter on this event last month and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to gain 'E' hours. Thanks, Kelly Jackson

Diazinon

by Darrell Hensley, UT Extension Specialist, Entomology and Plant Pathology

Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. has requested the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to voluntarily cancel the registrations for all of its remaining products (agricultural and outdoor non-agricultural) containing the organophosphate pesticide Diazinon. EPA intends to grant these requests by issuing a cancellation notice at the close of the comment period for this announcement, unless the Agency receives substantive comments within the comment period that would merit its further review of these requests. It is EPA's intent that the effective date of the cancellation order, as requested by Syngenta, will be June 30, 2003. April 8, 2003 cancellation request by Syngenta is contingent upon EPA granting certain existing stocks provisions, which are set forth in this notice. This action affects only registrations held by Syngenta. Other registrations for agricultural uses remain in effect. The Federal Register notice listing the provisions related to existing stocks of diazinon is available at www.epa.gov/fedregsr/EPAGEST/2003/May/Day-30/ p13436.htm.

2003 Hamilton County Fair

The Fair Committee continues to work on our theme, "Gardening with Yard Art". Chairpersons have been chosen and some volunteers have come forward and are beginning to work on various projects. There are still places for volunteers to do small projects such as 'old fashion' bed frame to make a "flower bed", using an old wooden screen door as a trellis, wheel barrow or a planter tipped over to create a look of flowers spilling from the planter or creating a birdhouse from an old mailbox. These would need to be created at the Fair site or at home and transported. Please let Sue Michena know soon if any of these interest you.

We will be using specific TN Select plants to place around the finished Yard Art at the Fair.
Calendar of Events

July 5 – Crabtree Farms Workshop: Learn the Art of Flower Arranging, 10 to noon. Cost: $20
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

September 6 – Crabtree Farms Workshop: Landscaping with Native Plants, 10 to noon. Cost: $20
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

July 14 & 15 – Chattanooga Association of Landscape Professionals presents The Summer Express. Cost $40 pre-registration. www.chattanoogalandscapers.com

September 20 – Crabtree Farms Fall Plant Sale
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

July 17 – Monthly Membership Meeting

October 4 – Crabtree Farms Workshop: Craft Wreaths with Dried Flowers, 10 to noon. Cost: $20
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

November 1 – Crabtree Farms Workshop: Design Your Own Harvest Centerpiece, 10 to noon. Cost: $20
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

December 6 – Crabtree Farms Workshop: Holiday Wreaths with Fresh Greenery, 10 to noon. Cost: $20
Contact: 493-9155 x 10; www.crabtreefarms.com

AUDUBON ACRES NEEDS HELP.
The Contact person is Lynda Logan or Cleta Townsend. They need labor in Cherokee Gardens and Audubon Acres general area. There was much damage from the flood waters. The Phone # is 855-6113. Workers are needed year around but they need more helpers at this time to correct the damage the flood caused. Call SOON if you can help.

SHACK

Herbicides Can Protect The Environment by Gene Burgess, Professor, Entomology and Plant Pathology

According to a report by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy, herbicides help protect the environment. In 1938, soil erosion from cropland in the United States was about 3.8 billion tons. Soil erosion from cropland was only 1 billion tons (still a lot of mud pies) in 1997. Most of the decrease can be attributed to the reduction in tillage. Herbicides make no-till agriculture possible. Without herbicides, this report contends that cropland erosion would increase 15 percent. Erosion has two serious consequences. The loss of soil reduces our ability to produce crops, and the eroded soil degrades our waterways. In addition to environmental savings, herbicides help the U.S. economy. This report examined the loss of herbicides for 40 crops. If cultivation and hand weeding were substituted for herbicides, the cost of controlling weeds would increase by nearly $8 billion, and crop losses would exceed $13 billion. Increased cultivation would also cause additional air pollution caused by operating farm equipment for longer hours. You can read the entire report at this web site: http://www.nctap.org/benefits.htm

This story is not intended to advocate the increased use of pesticides. Everyone is concerned about the presence of herbicides in drinking water, and it is not difficult to point out environmental damage caused by pesticides. However, every technology offers benefits if we can manage the risks and pesticides are no different.

(SOURCE: Georgia Pest Management Newsletter Vol. 26)
Horticultural Weed Management
By Darren Robinson Horticultural Weed Management Specialist Plant Sciences and Landscape Systems

Home Lawns
Broadleaf weed Control: For broadleaf weed control in home lawns it is too late now to broadcast applications of products containing 2,4-D and dicamba. For problem broadleaf weeds, control with these products this time of year should be limited to only spot treatment. Broadleaf weed control with products containing 2,4-D and dicamba in home lawns is best conducted in the late winter, spring and early summer. When air temperatures exceed 75-80 F risk of injury to desired plants from volatilization greatly increases. Thus the use of products containing 2,4-D and dicamba in home lawns should be limited to spot treatment on individual problem weeds. Application is best conducted in late evening allowing the product to be taken up over night. This timing allows optimum control and reduces vapor loss or reduces risk of injury to desired plants.

Crabgrass and other summer annual grasses: For these emerged grasses in tall fescue, control options are limited that can be used by the average homeowner without risk of injury to the tall fescue lawn. Both MSMA and DSMA are labeled for this use. However, MSMA not properly applied can cause severe injury to tall fescue. DSMA can cause injury but is a safer option. Risk of injury is decreased when application is made at the low rate in the evening rather than in the heat of the day. In bermudagrass, for control of these emerged grasses, MSMA is the best option for the homeowner. MSMA applied to bermudagrass will cause some discoloration. However, the bermudagrass will recover.

Home Ornamental Beds
Control of Bermudagrass in Ornamental Plantings: VANTAGE is the most available herbicide available to homeowners for selective removal of grassy weeds from ornamental plantings. For control of bermudagrass, make multiple applications, anytime there is 6 to 8 inches of runner growth present. This product can be used in most ornamental plantings that contain dicot plants and daylilies and monkeygrass or lirope. This product can not be used in plantings of ornamental grasses. For control of invasive perennials in the urban property, along property borders and along fence rows it is getting too late to use products based on 2,4-D and or dicamba. Risk of off-site movement with these products is too great this time of year. Even the smallest amount of 2,4-D or dicamba can cause serious damage to sensitive crops or garden vegetables like tomatoes. The following provides some discussion on controlling invasive perennial this time of year with out 2,4-D and dicamba.

Bamboo: For control of bamboo the most available herbicide option is ROUNDP. Cut down the existing stand. Then treat and re-treat re-growth with ROUNDP mixed at a 5% solution of ROUNDP plus water. Make application when re-growth is 6 to 18 inches tall.

Brambles: For control of brambles this time of year, ROUNDP is an option or a product containing triclopyr in the amine formulation (e.g., GARLON 3A). For improved control ROUNDP can be tank-mixed with a product containing triclopyr in the amine formulation.

Honeysuckle: Honeysuckle can be controlled now with ROUNDP. Often early applications of ROUNDP fail to control honeysuckle. Honeysuckle is tolerant to ROUNDP until after the honeysuckle is past the bloom stage. Thus, application this time of year will have improved activity.

Kudzu: For control of kudzu, ROUNDP will have activity applied this time of year and into the fall. Prior to the kudzu bloom stage, ROUNDP is less effective. For improved control a tank-mix combination of ROUNDP with ALLEY or ESCORT is very effective. In this application, practice the 1/3 rule - if 1/3 of the kudzu plant can be sprayed then this usually results in complete control of the entire plant. Control will be for this season only. Anticipate re-growth and retreatment next year.

Poison Ivy, Oak or Virginia Creeper: ROUNDP or product containing triclopyr in the amine formulation are the best choices for this time of year. Combination of ROUNDP with a product containing triclopyr in the amine formulation will improve control.

General Items and Plant ID
Orchardgrass and Goosegrass: How do you tell orchardgrass and goosegrass apart. Orchardgrass and goosegrass will look similar in the seedling stage as both plants produce a leaf blade that is folded. However, orchardgrass will have a folded leaf blade and a large membrane ligule. Goosegrass will have a folded leaf but no ligule or just a fine line of hairs for a ligule. Orchardgrass is a perennial and goosegrass is an annual. Once the plants are full grown and especially at the seed head stage then it is easy to identify each. But, at the seedling stage this is something that I have found helpful; the two main grasses common in Tennessee that produce a leaf blade that is folded as it emerges are goosegrass and orchardgrass. Goosegrass has no ligule or a small line of hairs.
Insect of the Month

Nothing is worse than babying a squash plant from seed to maturity and just when the first fruits are ripe you notice a complete wilt-down of the plant caused by the destructive Squash Vine Borer. Here are the facts:
COMMON NAME: Squash Vine Borer
SCIENTIFIC NAME: Melittia cucurbitae
DESCRIPTION: Squash vine borers (SVB) are the larvae of a clearwing moth which mimic wasps in size, shape and flying habit. It is has a 1 to 1 1/2 inch wingspan and metallic greenish-copper forewings and transparent hindwings. Its abdomen is fringed with red, black, and copper. The larvae are 1 inch long, thick, white, wrinkled with a brown head. Eggs (1/25-inch) can often be found glued to the stalks and stems of squash vines.
BIOLOGY: Adult clearwing moths emerge from the soil at about the time when vine crops are beginning to run, usually late June. Eggs are laid singly on the underside of the vines and are often concentrated at the base of the plants. The eggs hatch in about 2 weeks and the young borers enters the plant and begins feeding. The larvae bore in vines until they are hollowed out and filled with frass. Matured larvae exit the stems and burrow into the soil, where they prepare their overwintering cocoons.
DAMAGE: SVB’s feed primarily on squash and gourds but cucumbers and melons are also possible hosts. Borer activity causes extensive disruption to the conducting tissues of the plant’s stems usually leading to death of the plants. The presence of holes in plant stems and accompanying ooze or a collection of yellowish grains of frass below the vines are indicators of SVB. Large white worms with brown heads can be seen if stems are cut open. A plant that has been injured to the point of wilting usually contains several borers. Occasionally borers may be found in the fruit.
CONTROL: Preventive treatments are best. Begin applying insecticides when the vines begin to run. Continue on a 7 to 10 day reappraisal schedule for 3 to 5 weeks. If a plant is found that has already begin to wilt, it may help to slit the vine lengthways with a knife until you can find the borers. Destroy the pests and cover the wound with moist soil to encourage rooting. Keep this area moist. Delayed planting of summer squash may also help reduce SVB attacks. Certain varieties of squash, including butternut, show some resistances to SVB. Robber flies and ground beetles are beneficial insects that may also help control this pest. If a plant cannot be saved be sure to pull it out of the soil and burn it to prevent SVB from overwintering in your soil.
Chemicals: endosulfan (Thiodan), carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin

Earth Machine – The Home Compositor

Herb Cohn is wanting to order Earth Machines, he almost has enough to place the minimum order. They have a 10 year warranty, come with complete instructions, and are easy to assemble. If you are interested please call Herb at 877-3813 as soon as possible.

“Do We Need Nature?”

The Economist and Shell International Limited invite entries in their "Future Thinking" writing competition 2003 entitled "Do We Need Nature?" They will pay one $20,000 first prize, two $10,000 second prizes, and five $5,000 third prizes. The entry deadline is still about 60 days off. Log on http://www.shell economistrize.com for details. This site contains seven questions about possible subject matter that will set you thinking about the future. You'll enjoy browsing and studying it.
Monitor pets closely for at least 12-24 hours after applying any product.

Federal News by Gene Burgess, Professor, Entomology and Plant Pathology

An agreement between EPA and pesticide registrants eliminates most residential uses of wood treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). After December 30, 2003, CCA-treated lumber cannot be sold for use as play structures, decks, picnic tables, landscaping timbers, residential fencing, patios or walkways/ boardwalks. Wood treated with CCA can still be used in permanent wood foundations and fence posts for agricultural uses. Consumers who have CCA wood may use the wood for any purpose. This cancellation agreement may create some problems. Some consumers have been concerned about the availability of adequate replacements. Other, safer materials are already available to treat wood. Residential consumers may not notice the slight price increase, but commercial consumers may feel the pinch from higher-priced materials.

Disposal of CCA wood may be a greater problem. Current federal pesticide regulations do not require schools or residences to replace playscapes, decks, etc., made from CCA-treated wood. Even without a regulatory mandate, there will be considerable pressure for schools to remove CCA wood from school grounds. According to the Georgia Department of Agriculture, CCA wood will have to be disposed of as hazardous waste. Legally, you cannot burn, bury or dump hazardous wastes; you cannot deposit hazardous wastes in an ordinary landfill. Legal disposal of hazardous wastes can be expensive, and many schools are already strapped for cash. The best option for disposal of CCA wood is to give it away. In most situations, it will not be difficult to find someone who can use structural timbers and other wood from playscapes.

(SOURCE: Georgia Pest Management Newsletter, Vol.26)
# MASTER GARDENER SERVICE REPORT

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Totals Reported This Period

Signature                       Date

Social Security Number*8

*Use the audience column if you spoke to a group to record the number of people in attendance.

*Your SSN will not be shared with anyone beyond the Agriculture Extension Service. It is required by the University of Tennessee for insurance purposes.
Master Gardeners of Hamilton County
Hamilton County Master Gardener Service

The University of Tennessee sees the Master Gardener Program as a means of increasing its outreach in the community. The ACE program contains Agriculture Extension services, service to the Community, and continuing education of the Master Gardener.

Example of Completed ACE Form.

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First-Year Members ("Master Gardener trainees")
As a Master Gardener each of us has agreed to provide 35 hours of service. During the first-year, it is recommended that this service be divided into three areas: Agriculture Extension (10 hours), Community Service (15 hours), and Education (10 hours). This was designed to give each "trainee" the opportunity for a broad-based first-year experience. A total of 35 volunteer hours must be completed and reported to become a Master Gardener. Hours should be completed between the time a person registers for participation in the Master Gardener Training Program and completion of their first full year of membership.

Continuing Membership (Master Gardeners):
For continuing membership or "Re-certification" each Master Gardener is expected to provide 35 hours of service annually. After the first year (the "trainee" period), the expectation is that each Master Gardener will perform a minimum of 5 hours of service in both Agriculture Extension and Community Service, and 10 hours in Education. The remaining 15 hours can be in any of the areas (or any mix) permitting the Master Gardener to select what "makes best sense" given their personal interests and lifestyle. Hours earned in excess of thirty-five in any year may be carried over to the next year, only.

EXAMPLES OF A.C.E. ACTIVITIES

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION: Newsletter; County Fair (Information booth); answering telephones in Ag Extension office; material preparation for MG classes; service as a MG Board member or Committee Chair/member; material development for Ag. Extension office; development, implementation, or operation of Speakers' Bureau; video library; MG database

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Preparation and/or conducting a class/demonstration/presentation; participation in Speaker's Bureau; design, preparation, or maintenance of demonstration gardens; MG service projects (i.e., Sertoma Garden Show, Food Bank Garden Tour, Beginner/Newcomer Garden Course) as approved by the Service Committee; volunteer service to schools, churches, community groups/organizations on individual basis as approved by MG extension coordinator

EDUCATION: Attending regular Master Gardener meetings; attending "educational" meetings or horticulture seminars sponsored by various horticultural or related groups/organizations/educational institutions; organized tours with educational presentations; state, regional, or international Master Gardener Conferences

The Master Gardener Service Committee, a standing committee, will oversee the "Volunteer Hours" and resolve any issues which may arise. The Committee will help to clarify and identify appropriate activities in each of the service categories – Agriculture Extension, Community Service, and Education. In addition, the committee will work with the Extension Office and membership to develop, design, oversee, and present, to the membership, appropriate Master Gardener activities and projects. Ideas and requests for projects may be submitted to the Service Committee for review and/or approval by submitting the official Master Gardener Service Project Application. The Committee will maintain appropriate records of activities and projects and report regularly to the membership and the Board. The newsletter will be used to help provide needed information to the membership. The Committee will have a subcommittee in the areas of A, C, and E, and others as needed.

REPORTING DATES:
1st Quarter (April-June); 2nd Quarter (July-September); 3rd Quarter (October-December); 4th Quarter (January-March)

SUBMIT FORM TO:
Kelly Jackson, UT Agriculture Extension Service – 6183 Adams Circle – Chattanooga, TN 37416
Fax: 423-955-6115 E-mail: kjackson@utk.edu
Monthly Gardening Tips

Here are a few July gardening tasks and projects that you can do to help keep your garden looking its best for the rest of this season.

The primary rule of summer watering is to water thoroughly and deeply each time and to allow the soil dry out between waterings. Deep watering will allow the plant's roots to grow deeper, where they are less likely to dry out, as well as the added benefit of anchoring the plant into the ground better. Light, surface watering actually wastes water, because the water never actually reaches the root zone of the plant, and the moisture rapidly evaporates from the top inch of soil. Try to do your watering during the morning hours so that the leaves can dry off a bit before the hot sun hits them. Evening watering is sometimes acceptable if the temperatures are warm enough to insure that foliage dries before the temperature drops at night. (Wet foliage makes plants more susceptible to fungus and disease.)

Continue to dead head (remove dead flowers) your annuals to encourage continued blooming. If your annuals have died off, pull them out and add them to the compost pile. Replant that spot with hardy annuals or perennials, such as Gazania or annuals from faded annuals by cutting them back by one half their height, then fertilize them with a liquid 5-10-10 fertilizer.

Roses will need to be fertilized each month through the summer. Fertilize container gardens regularly with a liquid all purpose plant food.

Chrysanthemums should be lightly fertilized every two weeks. Discontinue pinching your mums in mid month so they will be able to develop flower buds for the fall. To promote 'trophy size' flowers, allow only one or two main shoots to develop. Remove all side buds as they begin to develop.

To produce the largest Dahlia flowers (especially 'Dinner plate' Dahlias), the main stems should be kept free of side shoots, allowing only the main terminal bud to develop. Be sure to provide adequate support to prevent wind damage.

Bearded Iris may be divided and replanted when they have finished blooming. Discard all shriveled and diseased parts.

Sweet peas may tend to fizzle out with the hot summer weather, but with heavy mulching to keep the roots cool and moist you can prolong the flowering season by a few more weeks. A little mid-day shade will also help to maintain the quality of the flowers and prolong the blooming season.

Verbenas, Euonymus, Pachysandra, Ivy, and climbing roses are some of plants that will root fairly quickly by layering them into the warm soil. Fasten a section of the stem containing one or more "eyes" down onto cultivated soil with a horseshoe shaped piece of wire and cover it with additional soil. By summers end, the stem should be rooted sufficiently to sever it from the parent plant and replant into another area of the garden.

Sow seeds of Hollyhocks, English daisies, Foxgloves, Violas, Canterbury bells, and Sweet William into the garden now for next year's bloom.

Geranium cuttings may be made in late July to start plants for indoor bloom during the winter months, and for setting into the garden next spring. You may need to provide supplemental lighting with fluorescent grow lights for really good winter blooms indoors.

Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned for shape after they have finished flowering. Remove any dead or diseased branches. Fertilize flowering shrubs like Rhododendrons, Camellias and Azaleas immediately after they have finished flowering with a 'Rhododendron' or 'Evergreen' type fertilizer.

Dead head the developing seed pods from your Rhododendrons and Azaleas to improve next years bloom. Be careful not to damage next years buds which may be hidden just below the pod.

Empty areas of the garden, where the crops have finished, should be replanted with either a fall vegetable crop, or a cover crop of clover or vetch to help control weeds. Cover crops can be tilled into the soil later, to add humus and nitrates to the soil. Raise the cutting height of the mower. Taller grass cools the roots and helps to keep the moisture in the soil longer.

Avoid using fertilizers in hot, dry weather.

Be alert to slug and snail damage. These creatures will be hiding during the heat of the day, but will come out of hiding in the cool morning and evening hours or after a rain.

Keep the weeds pulled, before they have a chance to flower and go to seed again. Otherwise, you will be fighting newly germinated weed seed for the next several years.

Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.

Continue to watch for insect or disease damage throughout the garden, and take the necessary steps to control the problem.
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<th>Master Gardeners Officers:</th>
<th>Board of Governors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President- Tommy Jackson</td>
<td>3 Year Members</td>
<td>Jeff Jarrett 697-7115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>877-7889</td>
<td>Ken Johnson 842-5122</td>
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<td>Vice President- John Shackleford</td>
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<td>Sherri Shackleford 894-5421</td>
<td>Budget/Finance:</td>
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<td>Secretary- Elaine Barker</td>
<td>Belinda Wilson 326-2818</td>
<td>Ben Holt 517-0554</td>
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<td>Sue Henley 894-1103</td>
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<td>Cindy Bacon 499-2227</td>
<td>Greeters/Refreshment:</td>
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<td>Bonnie Schmidt 842-4527</td>
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<td>855-6113</td>
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<td>Newsletter chairperson- Susan Babineau</td>
<td>843-2737, <a href="mailto:stbab@bellsouth.net">stbab@bellsouth.net</a></td>
<td>Belinda Wilson 326-2818</td>
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<td>MG Shirts:</td>
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<td>Sue Henley 894-1103</td>
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<td>Service Hours:</td>
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<td>&quot;A&quot; Agriculture Jeff Jarrett 697-7115</td>
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<td>&quot;C&quot; Community John Shackleford 894-5421</td>
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<td>&quot;E&quot; Education Bonnie Schmidt 842-4527</td>
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