



# Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

## What time is it?

### It's COLD FRAME time!

In [agriculture](#) and [gardening](#), a **cold frame** is a [transparent](#)-roofed enclosure, built low to the ground, used to protect [plants](#) from cold [weather](#). The transparent top admits [sunlight](#) and prevents heat escape via [convection](#) that would otherwise occur, particularly at night. Essentially, a cold frame functions as a miniature [greenhouse season extension device](#).

Historically cold frames were built to be used in addition to a heated [greenhouse](#). The name, itself, exemplifies the distinction between the warm greenhouse and the unheated cold frame. They were frequently built as part of the greenhouse's foundation brickwork along the southern wall (in northern latitudes). This allowed seeds to be germinated in the greenhouse and then easily moved to the attached cold frame to be [hardened-off](#) before final planting outside.<sup>[1]</sup> Cold frames are similar to some enclosed [hotbeds](#),<sup>[2]</sup> also called hotboxes. The difference is in the amount of heat generated inside. This is parallel to the way that some greenhouses are called "hothouses" to emphasize their higher temperature, achieved either by the solar effects alone or by auxiliary heating via a [heater](#) or [HVAC](#) system of some kind.

Cold frames are found in [home gardens](#) and in [vegetable](#) farming. They create [microclimates](#) that provide several [degrees](#) of air and [soil](#) temperature [insulation](#), and shelter from [wind](#). In cold-winter regions, these characteristics allow plants to be started earlier in the spring, and to survive longer into the [fall](#) and winter. They are most often used for growing [seedlings](#) that are later [transplanted](#) into open ground, and can also be a permanent home to cold-[hardy](#) vegetables grown for autumn and winter [harvest](#).

Cold frame construction is a common home or [farm](#) building project, although kits and commercial systems are available. A traditional plan makes use of old glass windows: a wooden frame is built, about one to two feet tall, and the window placed on top. The roof is often sloped towards the winter sun to capture more light, and to improve runoff of water, and [hinged](#) for easy access. Clear plastic, rigid or sheeting, can be used in place of glass. An electric [heating cable](#), available for this purpose, can be placed in the soil to provide additional heat.

One of the advantages of using a cold frame is that you can raise a huge variety of crops from seed through to maturity within the frame - so it's possible to have vegetable crops ahead of their normal season when they are extremely expensive to buy. Some crops suitable for growing in a cold frame include lettuces, parsley, salad onions, spinach, radishes and turnips etc. One vegetable crop can occupy the whole of a cold frame or you can grow a combination of crops so that they mature in rotation - so you'll get a wide range of different vegetables throughout the year from one cold frame.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold\\_frame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_frame)

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## **February 2011 Board Business**

The Board has accepted recommendations from the BUD SPROUT committee on the start-up of this post graduation mentoring program for the new Interns. This program will match up Interns with Certified Master Gardeners on a one-to-one basis in order to guide the new graduates thru the post-classroom and into volunteering to obtain their certification.

The Treasury report shows a balance of \$12,701.21

The **WTCl** T.V. Be More Award winners will be announced on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Our Master Gardener organization has been nominated in two categories. This is a very prestigious award and our dedicated group of volunteers deserves recognition for their community involvement in the Chattanooga area. Good Luck everyone and much thanks to Sally Wencil for composing the two entries.

April will be a very full month with numerous events and workdays.

Please look at the YAHOO calendar often for scheduled events and workdays.

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 <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/>)

### March

#### March 3, Thursday

MG Board meeting at the AG Center @ 6:00 pm.

#### March 7, Monday

Chattanooga Natives meet at the CAFB at 6:00 pm

#### March 8, Tuesday

Chattanooga Herbies meet at the CAFB at 6:30 pm

#### March 8, 15, 22, 29 (Tuesdays)

Beginner's class at the AG Center @ 6:00 pm.

#### March 9, 10, 11 (Wed. Thurs. Fri.)

Tree wrap at the AG center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

#### March 17, Thursday

MG member's meeting at the AG Center @ 6:00 pm.

#### March 18, Friday & March 24, Thursday

March 18<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> MG's will build some raised bed garden boxes. We will work at the Food Bank Garden Pavilion on Curtain Pole Rd. just off Amnicola Hwy. We will start at 8am and work until 5pm. These are community volunteer hours. Bring power drills, safety glasses, gloves. Jobs for anyone of any skill level. Carry boards, help fix lunch, drill, cut, etc. Sign-up and for more information call the UT Extension office at 855-6113

### April

#### April 2, Saturday

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

#### April 4, Monday

Chattanooga Natives meet at the CAFB at 6:00 pm.

#### 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 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, Sat. Sun

AEEE @ Crabtree Farms and the CAFB.

Rain barrels at CAFB, Soil, composting and MG Q&A table at Crabtree Farms. Call for times.

#### April 16, Saturday

Crabtree Farms Spring Plant Sale. MG's will have a Q&A table, rain barrels and composting. Call for times.

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

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

### 'In case you missed it'

Amanda Cate gave a talk and showed pictures of her visit to the Eden project in Cornwall, UK.

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

*Mike and Stephanie are on WPLZ on Saturday morning from 8 to 10 a.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 Program-Overview**

### **BudSprout Program Purpose:**

To improve Intern retention and certification through the first year by matching Interns with interested certified Master Gardeners after Intern training has been completed.

### **BudSprout Program Description:**

This is a voluntary program in which certified Master Gardeners act as Sponsors for new interns to help make sure interns are aware of MGHC activities and attain certification. The Sponsors are matched with interns based on interests or geography or both. Sponsors and interns will sign up for the Program early in the Master Gardener Training program to help provide adequate time for matching and Sponsor training. The Sponsorship Program will begin after Interns have graduated.

### **BudSprout Sponsor Steps in Communication:**

#### **Step One: Attend BudSprout Sponsor training session**

Sponsors learn about the recommended procedures for contacting Sprouts/Interns.

Gain and maintain familiarity with current Master Gardener volunteer programs, website contents, policies and procedures so that they can be a resource for the Intern.

Be in a position to answer the Intern's questions and troubleshoot problems the Intern may be encountering.

Make it as easy as possible for the Intern to become involved in one or more Master Gardener projects. Become a Master Gardener Ambassador.

#### **Initial Contact with a Sprout(s)**

After receiving a Sprout assignment, the Intern is personally contacted by phone by the Sponsor. This contact is made within the first week after assignment. The sponsor will establish an open channel of communication with each Intern by discussing some/all of the following:

1. Inquire about the MG training. Was it interesting? Helpful? What was favorite part?
2. Ask if the Intern has gotten any volunteer hours. If so, where? How has the volunteer experience been? Help troubleshoot any problems.
3. The Sponsor will find out what kinds of Master Gardener volunteer projects are of interest to the Intern. Once this has been determined, the Sponsor may suggest projects that may be of interest. Give the Intern the names and contact information for appropriate Project Leaders. Find out if the Intern has entered their hours on the Master gardener website.

Find out if the Intern has been receiving Yahoo Group emails.

**Sponsors will keep a dated call/contact log** with notes so it can reported to the BudSprout Committee about Intern involvement and Program process improvement.

### **Within the First Two Weeks: Meet a Sprout(s)**

After their initial phone call, Sponsors will arrange to meet their Intern personally. The Intern will be invited to join the Sponsor for an upcoming MG monthly meeting, volunteer activity, educational program, or other activity that you think may be of interest. The Intern will be introduced to Project Leaders and other MGs who are involved in projects of interest.

### **Continuing Contact with a Sprout(s)**

Interns are again invited to join you for a MG monthly meeting, volunteer activity, educational program, or other activity that the Sponsor thinks may be of interest. Make sure the Intern feels welcome. During this time, if the Sponsor learns of an activity or program that they think may be of interest to the Intern, call or email him/her to encourage participation.

### **Communicate with the Program Coordinator**

Sponsors will report on their successes and challenges. Suggestions can be offered to other Sponsors.

### **Additional Contact with a Sprout(s)**

Interns will be contacted again 7-8 weeks into the program for additional follow up to see how many ACT hours the Intern has achieved. Suggestions will may offered to help get to required level for Master Gardener certification.

### **Ongoing Intern contact**

Sponsors will maintain contact with their Intern, and if possible, meet with their intern at least once each month. Continue to offer suggestions to help get to required level for Master Gardener certification.

When the intern becomes certified, the sponsor will coordinate with Certification Officer and make the presentation of Master Gardener badge to their Intern at a Master Gardener event or meeting.

### **BudSprout Sponsor Wrap-up Meeting**

Sponsors will turn in their call/contact logs at the wrap-up meeting and may offer assessment of and suggested improvements for the BudSprout Program for 2012.

**MG PROJECTS CORNER:**

For information about Master Gardener approved projects, contact:  
Stephanie @ (423) 842-3743 or email: [spayne@cbizmmp.com](mailto:spayne@cbizmmp.com)

Denise @ (423-332-5972) or email: [dgchivington@comcast.net](mailto:dgchivington@comcast.net)

Tom @ (423-855-6113) or email: [tstebbins@utk.edu](mailto:tstebbins@utk.edu)

**Project Guidelines:**

In general, to have a project approved by the project committee, you must DEFINE the project, state the PURPOSE of the project and give the INTENT of the project.

Before the project is approved, the proposed project must be evaluated for UTILITY, it's size and scope, it's intent, educational or therapeutic, and it's usefulness to the Master Gardener program.

Will the project have to be maintained after completion? Above all, will the public have access to the project. After all the above questions have been answered, the project must be APPROVED by the Project Committee before initiating the project.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2010**

**ACT hours...16,195**

**EDUCATION/ CEU hours...2,002**

**Total CERTIFIED members...155**

**INTERN TOTAL HOURS...3,619**

**Total CERTIFIED interns ...33**

**OVER 100 HOURS...12**

**See how we have improved since 2008;**

**ACT...2008..10,178                      EDUCATION/CEU...1,121      CERTIFIED...107**

**ACT...2009..13,657                      EDUCATION/CEU...1,419      CERTIFIED...132**

**ACT...2010..16,195                      EDUCATION/CEU...2,002      CERTIFIED...155**

**Congratulations to the BEST Master Gardener program in the State of Tennessee!!**

**ATTENTION MASTER GARDENERS:**

**ALL CORRESPONDENCE, DUES AND HOUR REPORTING SHEETS MUST BE MAILED TO:**

**U.T. EXTENSION-HAMILTON COUNTY  
 MASTER GARDENERS RESOURCE ROOM  
 6183 ADAMSON CIRCLE  
 CHATTANOOGA, TN.  
 37416**

***“Gardening throughout the year”, a guide for Tennessee Gardeners******March******Trees and shrubs***

- Cut a few stems of forsythia, flowering quince, pussy willow or fruit trees for forcing inside.
- Transplant still-dormant deciduous shrubs and trees, plant fruit trees and groundcovers.
- Prune summer-flowering woody ornamentals like butterfly bush, hibiscus, hydrangea (H. tardiva and 'Annebelle') and rose of Sharon.
- Prune deciduous vines like honeysuckle, trumpet creeper and porcelain berry.
- Remove invasive vines like Japanese honeysuckle, wisteria and Oriental bittersweet from the landscape.
- Plant new roses, or move old roses after the 15th.

***Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs***

- Plan the summer garden.
- Add mulch to perennial beds before plants emerge to maintain a 3-4 inch layer (avoid newly-seeded areas)..
- Plant cold-weather annuals; pansies, violas, snapdragons, English daisies, sweet William, gazanias, larkspur and calendulas.
- Start seeds indoors of perennial herbs and slow-growing, annual flowers like ageratum, verbena and vinca.

***Fruit, Vegetables and Herbs***

- Remove last year's canes from raspberries and blackberries (except everbearers); continue pruning grapevines and fruit trees.
- Prepare vegetable garden by adding well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss or compost and till in (weather permitting).
- Start cold-weather vegetables (broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage) in cold frames.
- Direct-seed greens (kale, mustard, spinach), lettuce, peas, radishes and onion sets in the garden.
- Plant, rhubarb, horseradish and asparagus.

***Miscellaneous***

- Turn the compost pile..
- Feed the birds.
- Keep the birdbath free of ice and change water weekly.
- Look for blooming hellebores, witch hazel, daphne, early daffodils and Japanese Apricot (Prunus mume).

UT Extension-Hamilton County  
6183 Adamson Circle  
Chattanooga, TN. 37416

Phone: 423-855-6113  
Fax: 423-855-6115



<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*