




Volume 10
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Master Gardeners hear it... through the Grapevine

Master Gardeners of Hamilton County

From the President

Don't forget March is a very important meeting. We will have our new slate of officers read and will be asking you to affirm the nominating committees slate. Our meeting will start at 6 PM. We will also have a vote of sorts regarding the time the Master Gardener meetings will commence. The board felt that many of you expressed positive comments regarding the meetings and we thought we would see what time the majority of MG members wish to meet. We also are looking for anyone who is interested in serving on the Awards and Recognition committee. No experience is necessary. We will be discussing ideas for what

types of awards we would like to see and criteria for those who may be vying for those awards.

WORTH AG HOURS

We also are looking for a couple of people from the new class to help with the newsletter. WORTH AG HOURS

Spring is upon us and what better way to welcome in spring than with Master Gardener garden tours. Rory Reese is willing to show her garden on Sunday, March 23rd with a rain date of Sunday, April 6th. The garden will be open from 2 until 5. Hopefully the tulips and daffodils will be blooming and some of the trees leafed out.



Spring is Here!!!

If you are interested, e-mail tnpolicebuffalo@aol.com or call 339-3250 for directions. We have had 2 other Master Gardeners agree to show their gardens, so stay tuned to "Master Gardeners Hear it Through the Grapevine" for dates, locations, times and contact numbers.

Special points of interest:

- March meeting on 20th at 6:00pm.
- Nominating committee announce slate of new officers
- Check out ways for you to get your ACE hours
- Wildflower Celebration



In a Nutshell:

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Diggin up the Past



The February meeting was well attended with over thirty members gathered at the Ag center. Rory presented awards to those members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty during the past year. Some of

those receiving awards include Kelly Jackson, John Shackelford, Bonnie Schmidt, Sue Henley, Karen Hucceby, Rebecca Goldberg, Gretchen Rominger, Susan Babineau, and Ben Holt.

Dr. Hill Craddock, a Professor at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a

member of the Tennessee American Chestnut Foundation spoke, on the history of the Chestnut tree and the progress they are having in reestablishing a disease resistant variety of the American Chestnut in this area. Also Kelly Jackson read the slate of officer nominees.

Joe's Corner

"We have crossed the halfway point for the Master Gardener training course."

We are beginning plans to add the new Palm and Exotic Plant exhibit to the Bonny Oaks Arboretum this spring. Volunteers will be needed to help dig and till the site and plant the trees. A volunteer willing to bring their tiller is especially needed. We plan to set the planting date for a Saturday either at the end of March or first of April weather permitting.

It would also be great to have a few people available to water the new plants during the summer of the first year. Depending on rainfall, plants will probably need to be watered once per week. If several people are available, an individual may only have to come once a month. Please let Kelly Jackson know if you will be available to help plant the site or want to be on the water rotation.

We are very thankful to Dr. Hill Craddock for his donation of two American Chestnuts to the Bonny Oaks Arboretum. These will be planted in the spring when we do the palm planting.

As our Arboretum grows,

plans have been discussed to find ways to better promote the facility to schools, youth and civic clubs. Currently, the Bonny Oaks Arboretum Committee is in the process of developing a short video as a promotion tool. However, there may be room for more marketing and as groups take advantage of the arboretum there will also be a need for tour guides and youth lesson plans. Therefore, the idea that we create an Arboretum Marketing and Tours Committee is an idea whose time has come. This will be separate from the Bonny Oaks Arboretum Committee whose job is to maintain the arboretum, keep the trees numbered, and make sure a plant list is always available. The new committee may look at developing future videos, creating school lesson plans, and even pursue grants that will help increase our marketing reach. Members of this committee should also be available to guide school classrooms through the arboretum and teach a simple lesson on tree identification or other aspect of trees. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Kelly Jackson.

We have crossed the halfway point for the Master Gardener training course. Attendance has been very good and teachers have been excellent. If you need to pickup a few E hours don't forget that classes meet on Monday nights from 6:30 to 9:00pm at the Agricultural Extension office on Bonny Oaks. A remaining list of classes and instructors are listed below:

March 10 Vegetables-Tommy Jackson, Master Gardener
March 17 Woody Ornamentals- Ben Holt, Master Gardener-Past President
March 24 Urban Forestry- Joe Nichols, UT Extension Agent-Retired
March 31 Turfgrass- Mike Payne, Master Gardener-Past President
April 7 Landscape Design- Stuart Miller, Chattanooga State
April 14 Insects of Ornamentals- Kelly Jackson, Hamilton County Ext. Agent
April 21 Herbs- Ivana Patterson, Master Gardener
April 21 Interior Plants- Sue Michelena, Master Gardener



Bulletin Board

Open for special requests, please call to include a note if you would like to offer items or ideas up for responses from other members.

For Sale!

Fresh rabbit manure. Makes great fertilizer. Call Becky Whaley (472-2766).

Calendar of Events

March 15-16 – Down to Earth Lawn and Garden Show 2003 – Chattanooga, TN, Camp Jordan Arena
Contact: (423) 892-7183 or www.sertomachattanooga.com

March 17-Master Gardener Training class 6:30-9:00pm

March 20– MG Membership meeting 6:00pm at the Ag Center

March 23 – Garden Tour at Rory Reese's garden Hours will be from 2-5. Rain Date of April 6

March 20-23, 2003 – 10th Annual Festival of Flowers – Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama
Contact: 1-877-777-0529 or www.festivalofflowers.com

March 24– Master Gardener Training Class 6:30-9:00pm

March 31– Master Gardener Training Class 6:30-9:00pm

March 31– Last day to get Dues and ACE hours turned in

April 1- April 30 – Out of Africa and Beyond Tradition: Sculpture Show – Memphis Botanic Garden
Contact: (901) 685-1566 or www.memphisbotanicgarden.com

April 7– Master Gardener Training Class 6:30-9:00pm

April 11-13 – Spring's Best Annual Plant Sale – Memphis Botanic Garden

Contact: (901) 685-1566 or www.memphisbotanicgarden.com

April 14– Master Gardener Training Class 6:30-9:00pm

May 3 – World of Plants Family Day – Memphis Botanic Garden
Contact: (901) 685-1566 or www.memphisbotanicgarden.com

May 3 – 7th Annual Herb and Garden Festival – Lafayette, LA
Contact: (337) 662-3542 or (337) 662-6321

May 3– Tour of Jimmy Wooten's garden

E Educational Opportunities for your ACE Service Hours

Every Master Gardener membership meeting you attend is worth (1) one hour credit www.hamiltontn.gov/agextension
Every Seminar sponsored by horticultural or educational institutions you attend is more credits.

Monday Night Master Gardener Training Tuesday Night in March Beginning Gardener Training Chattanooga Nature Center www.chattanature.org Sequatchie Valley Institute "Moonshadow" www.svonline.org
Crabtree Farms

www.crabtreefarms.org
Tennessee Aquarium www.tnaqua.org 8th Annual Wildflower Celebration March 31 to April 6 Smoky Mountain Wildflower Pilgrimage
Sewanee Herbarium www.sewanee.edu/biology/herbarium/index.html

"Check this out!!!"

Proposed Slate of Officers for 2003-2004

The nomination committee read the proposed slate of officers at the last Master Gardener meeting. These positions will be voted on at the next meeting. If anyone has any questions about the slate please contact Ben Holt.

The slate is as follows:

President -Tommy Jackson
Vice President -John Shackelford
Secretary- Elaine Barker
Treasurer- Sue Henley
Newsletter Chair- Susan Babineau

Board

3 Year Member Ken Johnson
3 Year Member Gretchen Rominger
2 Year Member Sherrie Shackelford
2 Year Member Belinda Wilson
1 Year Member Cindy Bacon
1 Year Member Bonnie Schmidt



Insect of the Month

One of the first pests of the spring season is the Eastern Tent Caterpillar. Signs of this pest are easily seen in Tennessee



when driving the interstate but can often be found in the backyard as well.

Here's the facts:

COMMON NAME: Eastern Tent Caterpillar

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Malacosoma americanum (Fabricius)

DESCRIPTION: Typically, this pest is first noticed when it builds its white silken nests in the crotch of trees. These nests can contain hundreds of caterpillars and serve as protection from natural predators. The caterpillar is very hairy, black with a white stripe down its back. It will also have narrow brown and yellow stripes and are often mottled with blue spots. Full grown larva are two inches long. The adult is a reddish brown moth about 1 inch wide (from wing tip to wing tip).

BIOLOGY: Eastern tent caterpillars overwinter as eggs, laid as a mass and attached

to small twigs on the host plant. These masses appear as shiny, dark-grey foam on the twig, are about 1 inch long, and may contain upwards to 350 eggs. Eggs hatch in the early spring just as the leaves on the tree emerge. The tiny caterpillars will move to the crotch of the tree and begin to spin their silken tent. Larvae feed on the leaves of various trees during the early morning and late evening for about 6 weeks. When mature, the larvae leave the tent and find a place to spin their cocoon. The adults will emerge within 4 weeks, mate, and the females will lay their egg masses. There is only one generation per year.

DAMAGE: Eastern tent caterpillars generally attack crabapple, wild cherry, and apple. They may also feed on peach, plum, pear, rose, hawthorn, ash, birch, willow, maple, oak, and poplar. Generally, damage is more to the aesthetics of the tree than the health. However, three or more years of damage to 50% or more of the foliage can weaken a large tree. Small trees with a large colony are of more concern since they could easily be

defoliated.

CONTROL: Observant gardeners can prevent problems with Eastern Tent Caterpillar by looking for the egg masses before they hatch. These can be pruned out of the tree and destroyed. Another option is to use gloves and remove the webbing once it appears on the trunk. The webbing and the caterpillar inside can be crushed or dropped in soapy water. There are several naturally occurring predators to the caterpillars. One is a parasitic fly which resembles a housefly. Eggs of the fly are laid in the caterpillar and the fly maggot consumes the caterpillar. Ground beetles and wasps also are predators. Orioles have been known to eat entire infestations. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is a naturally occurring bacteria that can be sprayed on the foliage and will destroy the caterpillar without harming predators. Other insecticides are also effective in destroying the Eastern tent caterpillar.

Chemicals: acephate, carbaryl, malathion, and Bt products

Trees are Valuable

Landscapes and individual plants appear to enhance property values and represent tangible assets. Recent studies have measured the contribution of vegetation to property values. One study revealed that shade trees contributed 19 percent of the total appraised value. A U. S. Forest Service study showed that real estate appraisers estimated that trees contributed as much as 27 percent of the price of the land. A survey completed by a mortgage company revealed that 84 percent of real

Larry Tankersley, Extension Assistant, Forest Management

estate agents believed that selling prices for homes on lots with trees were as much as 20 percent higher than comparable homes on lots without trees.

The inherent dignity and beauty of plants and their interactions with other organisms are profoundly valuable. In addition, the spiritual and mystical contributions of vegetation are important to humans. Trees and landscape plants also contribute basic architectural, engineering, and environmental functions such as shelter, climatic

modification, and animal habitat. Research indicates that well maintained landscapes can contribute to the value of residential property and that mature, well-placed trees can increase property values when compared to undeveloped properties. As spring approaches, look around your property and make plans to increase the value of your property and enhance the environment.



THE WEED THAT ATE THE SOUTH - HEADS NORTH

Washington State Department of Agriculture proposed

adding kudzu to the state's Class A noxious weed list. Kudzu can grow 60 feet a year and has been called "the weed that

ate the South." It was discovered in Washington's Clark, Grays Harbor and Island counties in the past 2 years.

There have also been several small outbreaks discovered in Oregon since 2000. All of these infestations, as well as the ones in Washington, are believed to have

been eliminated. Adding the plant to the Class A list would call for the immediate elimination of the plant once it was discovered in the state.

(from the Weekly NMPRO e-mail for Jan. 21, 2003, edited by Todd Davis).

Monthly Garden Tips

March is the month when many of the beautiful spring flowering perennials begin to flower. With Spring just around the corner, it is time to get serious and get the garden ready! The fickle weather of March makes it impossible to set dates and schedules for planting, so proceed with caution!

Fertilize shrubs and trees if this wasn't done in February. Use an acid type rhododendron fertilizer to feed evergreens, conifers, broad leaf evergreens, rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias. Use an all-purpose fertilizer to feed roses and other deciduous trees and shrubs. If you use granular type fertilizers, be sure to water it in thoroughly.

Pull the mulch off gradually as the plants show signs of new growth. The purpose of winter mulch is to act as a protector from sudden changes of temperature and chilling winds, so keep in mind that it is still winter. Acclimatize your plants by removing the mulch over a period of days, allowing the light and air to reach the new growth slowly.

Roses can be pruned this month. Severe pruning results in nicer long stemmed flowers and more compact bushes. Begin to spray roses for blackspot. Feed roses.

Sow seeds of summer blooming annuals indoors. Seeds which were started indoors last month may be transplanted from the flats into peat pots and given dilute fertilizer. If you have a greenhouse, it is time to take cuttings of 'wintered over' plants such as Coleus, Chrysanthemums, Geraniums, and other perennials.

Alternating thawing and freezing can tear plant roots and even force the plant right out of it's hole. If you notice any plants that have heaved, push them back into the earth, and tamp lightly with your foot. Divide and transplant summer blooming perennials and fertilize established ones as soon as new growth appears. Plant tender bulbs and tubers (gladiola, lilies and dahlias). You may continue planting additional bulbs every two weeks until mid June to ensure a continuous source of bloom.

Prune winter Jasmine after flowering; cut honeysuckle back to 3ft. Cut back established penstemons. Divide snowdrops while in leaf. Remove all dead blooms from bulbs. Fertilize any bulbs that have finished blooming with bone meal or bulb booster. Plant Primroses and Pansies. Pinch off tips of Sweet Pea seedlings and Mums, when they are 4 inches tall.

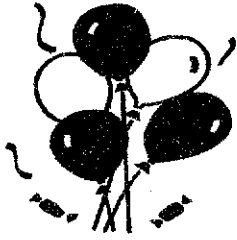
Take a little time to prepare the vegetable garden soil for planting. Well-rotted manure, processed manure, peat moss, or compost are good additives for building compost humus in the soil. Peas and sweet peas may be planted right now as well as perennial vegetables like Asparagus, Rhubarb, Horseradish and artichokes. Eggplant, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, celery, leeks, onions, early potatoes, and radish seeds may be planted in the garden about mid month. Spinach, Chard, Cabbage, Cauliflower, and other hardy vegetables can be seeded or set out late in the month. Plant Strawberries, Blueberries, Currants, Loganberries, Boysenberries, Grapes and fruit trees. Time to start tomatoes, lettuce, and many other vegetables from seed.

Houseplants will react to longer days and brighter light at this time by putting out new growth. The end of this month is a good time to pinch them back to generate new growth and to thicken them. You can then begin fertilizing again with a dilute solution of soluble houseplant food. Turn your houseplants a quarter turn each week to make sure all sides of the plant receive adequate light, and to keep the shape of the plant balanced. Mist or spray your houseplants to clean away the winters dust, prevent Spider Mites and add a little humidity. Remain vigilante in watching for insects and pests.

The most dreaded tasks of all is weeding, but it is one that really needs to be accomplished before the weeds have a chance to flower and go to seed. Remember once the weeds go to seed you can be fighting that weed seed for up to seven years or more. Most weeds can simply be pulled or cultivated out of the garden while they are young. Turn the compost pile, adding any course mulch, which was removed from the garden to it. Keep an eye out for Aphids (spray off with water) and Cutworms (Cutworm Dust). Repair damaged areas of the lawn.... De-thatch, rake or aerate. Apply Dolomite Lime to sweeten the soil if needed. Most lawns will need a spring feeding but if thatching or liming needs to be done, do those jobs first.. If moss is a problem, a combination fertilizer and moss killer can be applied, to do both jobs in one easy application. Over-seeding can be done as the last step, after the lawn has been fertilized. Test your soil for pH to see if any amendments are necessary. A general rule of thumb is to add 4 lbs. of lime per 100 sq. ft. of garden for every pH point below 6.5, or 1 lb. of sulfur per 100 sq. ft. for every pH point above 7.5. Sawdust, composted oak leaves, wood chips, peat moss, cottonseed meal, and leaf mold lower the pH while ashes of hardwoods, bone meal, crushed marble, and crushed oyster shells raise the pH. The best way to adjust pH is gradually, over several seasons. March is a good time to note areas of poor drainage. If there are pools of water in your yard that do not drain. Fill in the low spot or scoop out a channel for the water to drain away.

Clean out all of your birdhouses now, so that they will be ready when the birds return. Repair any fencing, arbors, or trellis work that weak or has broken over the winter ... before you get too busy!

CELEBRATION!!! GRADUATION!!!



Welcome!!!

Monday, April 28 at 6:30 PM will be our April membership meeting as we welcome the MG 2003 training class to Master Gardeners. Trainees will receive their certificates that evening at

the Ag Center. Weather permitting will have a welcoming party in the Bonny Oaks Arboretum. Food will be served. Please give your RSVP to Gretchen Rominger 875-

9204 or email jromtec@comcast.net. This is a great time to meet the new trainees and develop new blossom buddies!

EIGHTH ANNUAL WILDFLOWER CELEBRATION

Presented by the Tennessee Aquarium and the Tennessee Wildflower Society Celebrate the arrival of spring with a week of programs about the wildflowers of the Southeast. Please call 423-267-FISH to register or request a detailed brochure.

WILDFLOWER WALKS & EXCURSIONS

Saturday, April 5, 10 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Sunday, April 6, 1 - 4 P.M.

Adults & older children \$5 per walk/Member of any sponsoring organization; \$7/Non-Member

Walks and excursions are led by naturalists to areas with native wildflower populations.

A confirmation letter will be mailed after payment is received with meeting place and directions.

Mandarin Hollow, Lookout Mountain

This hike meanders alongside Rock Creek with a rich array of spring wildflowers such as yellow mandarin, Clinton's lily, trilliums and wild geraniums. With a rare fern on a

nearby outcrop and a newly burned area, there are many surprises on this lovely hike. (Moderate slope)

Conasauga River Walk, Conasauga, TN

A breathtaking scenic trail alongside the Conasauga River will lead you into the Big Frog Mountain Wilderness in the Cherokee National Forest.

Wildflowers cling to rocky bluffs and grow abundantly on the forest floor. Moss covered boulders and native grasses turn the river into a photographer's dream. (Easy, level walk)

Horsepound Falls, Palmer, TN

Part of the Savage Gulf State Natural Area, this strenuous five-mile hike dips into the gorge, crosses Suter Creek, continuing to Horsepound Falls.

Discover an outstanding display of rarely seen wildflowers, such as dwarf ginseng, southern red trillium and Dutchman's breeches. Bring a small towel and shoes that can

get wet for a creek crossing. (Strenuous hike with a probable wet creek crossing.)

Wildflower Cove by Canoe, Chattanooga

Adults only, limited to 16 per session.

Saturday, April 5: Canoes & all equipment provided 10 A.

M. - 1 P.M. and 2 - 5 P.M.

\$10/Member of any sponsoring organization; \$15/Non-member

Sunday, April 6: Bring your own canoe and equipment 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.

\$5/Member of any sponsoring organization; \$7/Non-member

Launching boats at Sullivan's Landing, we will paddle about

one half mile along the shore of the Tennessee River to a hidden area, only accessible

by canoe. This protected cove is so rich, you might think you are in the Smokies. Walk

among wildflowers like blue phlox, three-parted violet and blue cohosh. (Easy paddle & walk for any level)

Sign Up!

267-FISH

The Nature Center is starting up a grounds crew to work once a month at the nature center 3rd Sat of the month. Anyone interested in that can call nature center at 821-1160 and ask for Cecelia .



Join Us

Websites: Check it out

www.hamiltontn.gov/agextension/ Find UT Ag extension pubs online at: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu>



2002-2003

Master Gardener Officers:

President- Rory Reese
339-3250

Vice President- John Shackelford
894-5421

Secretary- Donna Adams
847-0087

Treasurer- Sue Henley
894-1103

Past President- Ben Holt
517-0554

UT Agricultural Extension Agent/MG Advisor- Kelly Jackson
855-6113

Newsletter chairperson- Susan Babineau
843-2737
stbab@bellsouth.net

Board of Governors

Ann Holt 517-0554
Cindy Bacon 949-7416
Bonnie Schmidt 842-4527
Sherri Shackelford 894-5421
Belinda Wilson 326-2818

Master Gardener Committeess

Bonny Oaks Arboretum
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Newspaper
Chairperson- Susan Babineau 843-2737

Master Gardener Directory
Chairperson- Jeff Jarrett 697-7115

Budget/Finance
Chairperson- Ben Holt 517-0554

Sertoma
Chairpersons- Sue Henley 894-1103
Mark Hildreth 344-1260

Greeters/Refreshments

Chairperson- Bonnie Schmidt 842-4527

Telephone

Chairperson- Belinda Wilson 326-2818

Service Hours

Chairpersons-

A- Jeff Jarrett 697-7115
C- John Shackelford 894-5421
E- Bonnie Schmidt 842-4527

Scrapbook

Co-Chairs- Alicia Rudat 760-1714
Debbie Bruker 875-2850

Master Gardener Shirts

Chairperson- Sue Henley 894-1103

Hamilton County Fair

Co- Chairs- Herb Cohn 877-3813
Bill Rodgers 886-1545

Master Gardeners of Hamilton County
P.O. Box 25194
Chattanooga, TN 37422