



Master Gardeners hear it...

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

UT Extension Service The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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May 2007

President's Letter

Talk about bursting spring's bubble. One minute I am happily tiptoeing through the tulips (yes, I really was) and the next I am weeping more than my cherry tree. Luckily, Mike had been calmly adamant about waiting until the last freeze date had passed (April 15th) before planting annuals or pruning. I, on the other hand, had been biting at the bit to start planting. It was warm, sunny and spring was in the air! After all, before moving to Chattanooga from Florida, I had been able to plant any time I wanted. Well, needless to say Chattanooga is different and we all suffered tragically from the freeze on April 7th. So, once again, Mike saved me from myself...in spite of me.

I did learn an important lesson,

however. That just because you do something one way, like when you start planting, does not mean it will always stay that way. Change is a part of every cycle. That same principal can be applied to the Master Gardeners. The Project and Annual Certification Guidelines outline the process for documenting Individual and Group Projects and there are some important changes that should be noted. For example, every project the Master Gardeners (individually or as a Group) undertake should be documented. How can we function properly as an organization if we don't communicate with our fellow Master Gardeners? We have a great Project Committee - Sue Henley, Gretchen Romminger and Jill Stebbins. They are ready to

help...talk to them; ask them questions! We want to start getting the word out about current projects (even small ones). You work hard and we want to let others know too!

We have a great Master Gardener graduation class this year. The dinner at Chester Frost Park was well attended and everyone I talked to was enthusiastic and ready to give back to the community...and that was not just the new interns! The more we work together the farther we can reach into the community and share our passion.

I hope everyone is planning to attend this month's Membership Meeting, Thursday, May 17th at 6:30 pm. Master Gardeners are the best company!

~Stephanie Payne

May Master Gardner Meeting, May 17th, 6:30pm

The May Membership Meeting will be held the AG Center at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will feature Jack Towns. Jack Towns is a teacher at Performance Learning Center in Catoosa

County GA (this is one of Georgia's alternative schools vocational dept)

He teaches the welding class. He will be bringing yard art which the kids make to the meeting. It will be for sale

should anyone want to purchase. He will tell about his work and how the money is used at the school and about the kids. If you have been to the Hamilton County Fair, you probably have seen their work.

In a Nut Shell:

Upcoming Events	2
Upcoming Events	3
Tom's Tidbits	4
Plant Pots	5



Send in your garden photo's

Upcoming Events

•**May 3rd, Master Gardener Board Meeting**, 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**May 5th, 2007 Food Bank Plant Sale**, 10:00am-4:00pm.

•**May 6th, Spring 2007 Spring Ladyslippers and Woodland Gardens TN Aquarium** 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Join Tennessee horticulturist Christine Bock to see dozens of exquisite ladyslippers in their native habitat on this protected site on the back of Lookout Mountain. We will also tour the gorgeous native flower gardens of professional Atlanta garden designers Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Stewart who artfully blend cultivated and native species with perfectly selected yard art to create their naturalized woodland gardens. \$10/Member; \$15/Non-Member

•**May 11th, Fruit Crops - Farmer For a Day, at Crabtree Farm** 9:00am-Noon. This informal training features an introduction to working with fruit crops such as strawberries, blueberries or blackberries. Joel Houser, Crabtree's Farm Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to maintain crops. He will share his growing knowledge, from cultivation to harvesting. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). Register by phone 493.9155 x16. Free event.

MAY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:00 Board Meeting	4	5 Plant Sale
6 Wood-land Class 2-4	7	8	9	10	11 Fruit Crop Class 9-12	12
13	14	15	16	17 6:30 Membership Meeting	18	19 Butterfly Class 10-12
20	21	22 Com- posting 5:30-7	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events Continued

•**May 17th, Master Gardener Membership Meeting**, 6:30 at the AG Center

•**May 19th, Spring 2007 Butterfly Gardening TN Aquarium**, 10:00am-Noon. Learn how to attract butterflies to your own yard using both flowers for nectar and food for caterpillars with Master Gardener Mike Payne. \$10/Member; \$15/Non-Member.

•**May 19th, Edible Landscaping Seminar at Crabtree Farm**, 9:30am-1pm. The Edible Landscaping Seminar is an approach to using what

you've got and overcoming gardening obstacles. By using what space you have, however limited, you can have a productive and efficient personal garden. Snacks provided. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$35 Non-Member:\$40

•**May 22nd, Composting 101 at Crabtree Farm**, 5:30pm-7pm. Learn the value of creating your own compost. This sustainable method of reusing and recycling has many benefits. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$15 Non-Member:\$20.

Upcoming Events

•**June 1st, Tomato Trellising at Crabtree Farm**, 9:00am-Noon. This informal training will provide volunteers a hands-on approach to growing productive tomato crops. Joel Houser, Crabtree's Farm Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to maintain tomato crops. He will share his growing knowledge, from cultivation to harvesting through question and answer. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). Register by phone 493.9155 x16-Free

•**June 7th, Master Gardener Board Meeting**, 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**June 8th, In the Garlic Patch at Crabtree Farms, 9-12.** This informal training will introduce participants to garlic harvesting. Joel Houser, Crabtree's Farm Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to pick garlic and store it for maximum shelf life. He will share his growing knowledge, from planting to harvesting through question and answer. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). Register by phone 493.9155 x16 Free.

•**June 12th, Vegetarian Cooking at Crabtree Farms, 5:30-7pm.** Mia Cucina will

JUNE 2007

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

Upcoming Events *Continued*

demonstrate how to cook summer vegetables to perfection. Learn to prepare delicious vegetarian dishes with fresh vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and okra, with a fresh twist! The lecture & chef demonstration will take place in the Crabtree Farms kitchen. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$15 Non Member: \$20.

Wanted:

We have an elderly customer that needs some weeding done a few hours a week up on Signal Mountain. Would anybody be interested? This may be for either pay or for community service. Contact Laura Landscape Arts, Inc. P.O. Box 22653 Chattanooga, TN 37422.

Phone: 423-238-4010
Fax: 423-238-7350



Tom's Tidbits for April 2007



Over 150 Master Gardeners, Master Gardener 2007 Class graduates and family members celebrated at Chester Frost Park on April 19th.

More photos needed for the Newsletter!!

Send Gina Turley, the Newsletter Editor, your favorite picture from your garden and have it featured on the first page of the newsletter. E-mail all pictures to Leo-bishop@comcast.net

Over 150 Master Gardeners, Master Gardener 2007 Class graduates and family members celebrated at Chester Frost Park on April 19th. We had about 80 people at the celebration last year. I predict over 200 people for next year. What do you think the number will be? It is a very good thing that we got to use the big pavilion. It was a bit chilly outside and a little windy. This is an ideal facility for spring banquets for our growing Master Gardener organization. The county didn't charge us this time so hopefully they will cooperate again next year. The food was excellent as usual. Hats off to the MG Board, the MG committees and everyone. They worked hard, to pull off the graduation. There are so many details that go into this event. I encourage new

members to get on a committee. If everyone helps out, it really is fun. Look in the directory for the committee of your choice. Some people like to get most of their hours from committee work. Call a committee chair to help out when needed.

Project forms

The ACE/CEU report form is good to keep track of your required hours. We also need a **project form**, before and after a project. Yearly or regular project summaries are also suggested. We are really going to push filling out project forms this year. It make so much sense to do this for even the smallest activities. The Projects Committee might have suggestions to give the project even more impact to the community. Sometimes help can be provided. It lets

me know what all Master Gardeners are doing. I get numerous requests from newspaper, radio, and television to explain what Master Gardeners are doing. The information needed is very concise. Who worked on the project? What was done? How much time and effort? Why was it done? Who benefited from the activity? I write impact statements each year. These tell our state leaders what types of things are being accomplished. This information shows the full extent of the projects in our county.

Have a great summer and keep in touch.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom



Plant Pots Made from Farm Wastes

Plant pots made from farm wastes could one day be a boon to the horticultural industry—and to the environment. The Agricultural Research Service ([ARS](#)) and the Horticultural Research Institute ([HRI](#)) of the [American Nursery and Landscape Association](#) are working together to create biodegradable pots for nursery production.

ARS research associate [Justin Barone](#), is slated to formulate the biodegradable nursery

containers. He will test the suitability of agricultural by-products such as poultry feathers, egg protein and lipid, milk and cheese protein, blood protein, animal and plant lipids, polysaccharides and plant proteins for conversion into polymeric products that can be pressed into pot shapes.

Barone will also design and build a mold of standard container dimensions to match nursery industry standards.

ARS horticulturist [Donna Fare](#), at McMinnville, Tenn., will study the effects of the new, biobased containers on plants and determine their longevity under nursery production conditions.

The pots will also be tested for use in composting, during which carbon dioxide production will be monitored. The ultraviolet and weather stability of pots during storage will also be determined.

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

Want to know what's happening throughout Tennessee? Statewide events and activities?

A statewide Tennessee Master Gardener listserv can keep you in the loop.

Here is how to join:

1. Visit the website <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/tmg.html>
2. Click on "Join or leave the list (or change settings)"
3. Add your information to the required fields.

This listserv is a self join and self leave list. If you have email address changes you can make them on your own. On this list you will receive no more than one email per week on educational, volunteer or TMG program opportunities. If you have information your group would like to share please send it to ebabit@utk.edu for the weekly email. We will do our best to add the information to the next listserv letter.

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

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Chattanooga, TN 37422

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



Board of Governors

2007-2008

Master Gardener Officers:

President– Stephanie Payne
Vice President– Dee Clark
Secretary– Ron Bohrer
Treasurer– Nancy Williams
Past President/Advisor– Sue Henley
Master Gardener Coordinator–
Tom Stebbins
Certification Officer–Gretchen Rominger

2 Year Members

Linda Billingslea
Lisa Lemza
Sue Michelena

1 Year Members

Bud Hines
Jim Keown

Joy Wooden

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:

Joy Sewell

Hospitality Committee:

Kelley Walker

Tammy De Ark

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

Mike Payne

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Wanda Wilkey

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Sue Henley

Gretchen Rominger

Jill Stebbins

Newsletter Committee:

Gina Turley

Lucie Brant

Service Hours (ACE/CEU):

Gretchen Rominger

Website Committee:

Mike Smith