

diggin' it!



All the Dirt from the Memphis Area Master Gardeners

Vol. 13, Number 6

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

April 2010

Weekend Gardening Seminar: The Dream Team Digs Into Edibles

The Spring Weekend Gardening Seminar will be held Saturday, April 10 from 9:00 am through noon at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Cost of admission is \$3 for Botanic Garden members and \$5 for non-members.

The theme will be the dream team digs into edibles. The expert panel to answer your gardening questions will include:

- Suzy Askew - Director of Lichterman greenhouse, designer of Magevney gardens renovation
- Bill Colvard - Master Gardener, estab-

lished Memphis Botanic Garden educational orchard

- Al Harris - Organic Farmer and owner of Harris Farms
- Evelyn Mosley - Past President, Herb Society, and
- Jim Volgas - Master Gardener, certified arborist.

Weekend Gardening Seminars are a CoRe project. If you wish to assist with tickets, set-up, refreshments, etc., please contact Caroline Forster.

WHO CAN RESIST A PLANT SALE?

No one we know!!! Here are the dates for this year's plant sales:

Dixon Gardens Wildflower Sale
April 9-10 (8 to 4 both days)

Memphis Botanic Gardens
April 16-18 (Friday and Saturday 9 to 5; Sunday 11-4)

Lichterman Nature Center
April 16-17 (Friday 9 to 6; Saturday 9 to 4) (All plants 1/2 price after 2:00pm Saturday!)

What will you find? Native shrubs and trees, ephemerals, edibles, the latest cultivars of woody and herbaceous plants, herbs and much more!

—Anne Krekelberg, MG '09

1500+ Attend Spring Fling

Beautiful weather, insightful speakers, 59 vendors and 1,500 or more attendees made this year's Spring Fling one of the most successful ever! Special thanks to the Master Gardeners who did our demonstrations including: Jean Andrus, Genie Ashworth, Mariah Bordelon, Jane Carter, Bob Hathaway, Mary Elizabeth MacDonald, Debbie Peyton and Cornelia Swain. 268 Master Gardeners members volunteered for Thursday, Friday and Saturday thru rain, cold wind and finally beautiful weather. 66 members donated food for our bake sale; the craft committee had approximately 30 members making items, and 156 members donated about 900 plants!

If you visit (or buy online) from any of our vendors, please let them know you saw them at Spring Fling!





TMG Volunteer Handbook - Check it out!

You were given a handbook when you graduated and joined the association. You may have understood the contents or not. Until last August the handbook contained a blend of volunteer guidelines as well as program rules. Beth Babbit, the State MG Coordinator, revised and updated this tool, dividing the information into two handbooks with separate objectives. We now have a TMG Volunteer Handbook (W199) and a TMG County Program Handbook (W193).

The new Volunteer Handbook covers guidelines for the MG program and certification requirements and responsibilities of a certified Master Gardener Extension volunteer. Master Gardener volunteers **must** adhere to these policies to maintain certification in the program. The certification guidelines in the handbook are a minimum standard. There are more requirements in the Shelby County program than the requirements of the state. You may access the new handbooks by visiting the UT Extension website/Lawn, Garden & Landscape, then the Tennessee Master Gardener link: <http://www.utextension.utk.edu/topics/YardGarden/default.asp> OR... the [mastergardener.tennessee.org](http://www.mastergardener.tennessee.org) website and logging in with your user ID and password. *Check with the office, if you don't know your login information.*

http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_resources/advocate/advocates.asp

The Volunteer Handbook tells about the Master Gardener Program, its history, UT Extension, and program policies. If you haven't read it in awhile, check it out!

—Carol Watkins, MG '06

News from the Recertification Committee...

We are trying to make it easier for you to regularly submit your hours for recertification. You can always drop off your completed sheets at any monthly meeting or in the Master Gardener's office. And now we offer an email opportunity for those of you who love your computers. Attach the completed recertification form in either pdf or excel format and email to recertification@memphisareamastergardeners.org. We cannot accept forms that are inserted into the body of your email. The forms must be attached. Forms inserted into the emails are jumbled and cannot be properly read.

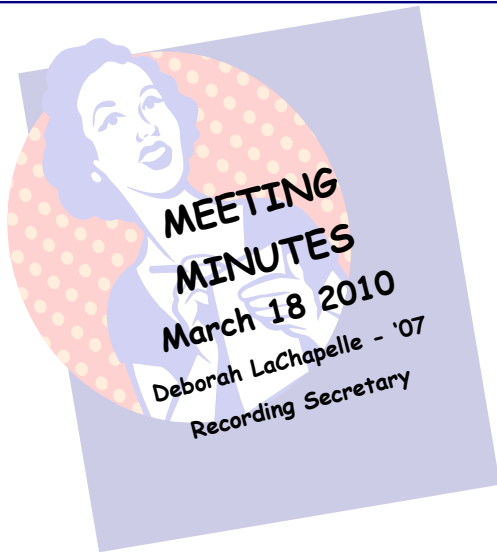
Since we maintain a cumulative total in the office, please do not resubmit hours or add hours to sheets which have been previ-

ously submitted. Thank you for all your patience during the spring months. We both had computer issues. Spring is here now; and those are behind us.

Congratulations to the 23 Master Gardeners who already have their hours for next year:

James Allen, Bill Ashworth, Genie Ashworth, Steve Bates, Carol Benson, Judi Brown, Ginger Coleman, Jackie Freeman, Ann Frogge, David Fuchs, Jeff Golladay, Selby Horton, Pam Kirk-Fowler, Gerlene Lifer, Phyllis Love, Sharon Lusk, Mary Ann Main, Kay McAdams, Barbara McDonald, John Peterson, Donna Stringer, Jan Whitaker and Whit Whitaker.

—Diance Capkovic and Linda Weiss



The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Memphis Area Master Gardeners

President Carol Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. Genie Ashworth introduced the speaker, Marianna Jones, Heirloom Plants.

BUSINESS: PAR chairman Tom Mashour and team leaders Jeff Golladay, Bill Young, Don Wear, and Sharon Lusk were recognized for PAR being selected for the state's Search for Excellence Award for Community Service. Chris Cooper along with PAR leaders Kay McAdams and Tom Mashour announced the new Davies Plantation location for PAR.

Carol Watkins passed out Feedback sheets for members to have input regarding the MAMG Scholarship Program. All scholarship documentation is available on the MG website under Forms and Documents.

Tom Mashour gave a monthly budget report and announced that a detailed budget is on the website under Forms and Documents. Tom will answer budget questions at every MAMG member meeting.

Each Master Gardener who turns in at least 100 hours for 2010 will receive a commemorative UT Extension Lapel pin because 2010 is UT's 100-year anniversary. Contact

Ray Lagesse for Habitat for Humanity volunteer opportunities on Jun 19, Jun 23, and Jun 26. More members needed to bring food for MAMG meeting refreshments. Refreshments were gone before the meeting started.

The MG Weekend Gardening Seminar is April 10th, 9-noon at Memphis Botanic Garden, titled The Dream Team Digs into Edibles.

Ask a Master Gardener Clinics have more locations and days available to receive CoRe and Teaching hours. A clinic session leader receives an additional teaching/CoRe hour. Clinic sign ups are on the volunteer tables at the MAMG meetings or in the office.

Chris Cooper announced that the 2010 Public Garden Tours will be a Special CoRe Project this year. Members who volunteer will receive CoRe hours. Jean Ward-Jones announced that we need a lot of volunteers for the June 5, 2010 Public Garden Tours.

If you sign up as a hotline volunteer, but are unable to make it, PLEASE remember to cancel in a timely manner.

When volunteering at clinics and hotline, remember as representatives of the Shelby County Extension Service, you are not allowed to recommend specific businesses for plant sales, services or products.

Contact Jean ward-Jones to be a garden host and receive 4 teaching hours. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22P.M.

150 Attendees

MOTHER NATURE'S LITTLE HELPERS:

Don't forget to use your empty toilet tissue and paper towel rolls to plant seeds. They make great free pots for seed plantings cut at the heights you want - easy to space lots together and easy to later plant in your garden--roll and all. Think Green. —Linda Phillips, MG -'99



Check Out The Latest Plants

It's spring, and gardeners everywhere are flocking to their special gardening center to pick up their tried-and-true favorites or to take home one of the new plants just hitting the market. Notable introductions this year include *Hydrangea arborescens*, 'Invincibelle™ Spirit,' touted as the first pink 'Annabelle' hydrangea. Gardeners have been waiting for years on a plant with the performance of 'Annabelle' but a colorful bloom. The blooms on 'Invincibelle™ Spirit' open hot pink and mature to a soft pink. It blooms on new wood, so it is not threatened by late frosts. One dollar from the sale of each 'Invincibelle Spirit™' will be donated to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



Lo & Behold® 'Blue Chip' Buddleia, the first miniature butterfly bush, is another new take on a long-time favorite. 'Blue Chip' has the fragrance and butterfly appeal of standard butterfly bushes but stays under three feet tall without pruning. Plus, it is sterile and does not set seed, and therefore blooms continuously from mid-summer to frost.

The new 'Rising Sun™' Redbud features golden tangerine colored, heart-shaped foliage all summer, fuchsia stems and bright rosy-apricot new foliage. In early spring, rosy orchid blooms appear before the foliage. With its mature height of 12 feet, 'Rising Sun™' is an excellent choice for small gardens and accent plantings.

Another new plant great for our Southern gardens is the new 'Sweet Tea' Heucherella, which features bold, intense 4-inch scalloped cinnamon tea-colored leaves. It's a new classic. After all, what Southerner doesn't need 'Sweet Tea' in the garden?

Also an excellent addition for our Southern gardens is the 'Midnight Bayou' Heuchera. Its large purple leaves are maple-like, have black veins and change from red purple to silvered purple with the season. Its Villosa heritage makes it a good fit for the South.

'Easy Does It™,' the only All-America Rose Selections award winner granted for 2010, is a luscious blend of abundant ruffled mango orange, peach pink and ripe apricot petals and a wonderful fruity fragrance. It's also disease resistant.

'Coral Cove Easy Elegance®', one of the latest in the Easy Elegance® series that has been performing well at the UT no-spray rose trials, offers incredible color in a petite size plus it's super disease resistant. The double blooms start out dark pink, change to orange and turn bright yellow at the center.

'Snow Princess™' Lobularia is being touted as a unique breakthrough in the genus for heat tolerance and extended season performance. This sterile Lobularia has an extended bloom time because it puts no energy into setting seed and is extremely fragrant.

Supertunia® 'Pretty Much Picasso' is a stunning new hot pink petunia with lime green edging on the petals. It will be a knockout in container plantings.



—By Ava Middleton, MG-09

'Blue Chip' Buddleia, Supertunia® 'Pretty Much Picasso' and 'Invincibelle™ Spirit' photos courtesy of Proven Winners - www.provenwinners.com.



CoRe SPECIAL PROJECTS IS UNDERWAY! -- Under the direction of Dr. Chris Cooper, the MAMG's first special project will be the "Through Our Garden Gates" 2010 Garden Tour, Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Master Gardeners will receive CoRe credit for working on this project that will benefit both UT Extension and the greater Memphis community. It will also shine a bright light on the MAMG Association. This is a huge undertaking, and we will definitely need your help! Sign ups available soon. Contact: Jean Ward-Jones.

ASK A MASTER GARDENER The Ask A Master Gardener Clinics are up and running for the year. We hope this will give MGers greater opportunities for volunteering. The first clinic was held at the Cordova Lowes on March 13th with a great response from the public shoppers. Lowes staff were extra accommodating and caring, making sure we didn't want for anything while we were there. Weekend clinics will continue to be held at this location through April and will then move to the Winchester/Hacks Cross Lowes starting in May.

Ask A Master Gardener Clinics will also start at the Red Barn Farmers Market in May.

There will also be clinics at the Collierville Victory Gardens.

In addition to these locations, the clinics will be held at the Public Garden Tours, June 5th and the Garden Jumble June 26th.

Sign-up is limited to 4 people per 4 hour session. If you sign up as the leader of a particular session, you will receive an additional hour of CoRe/Education given volunteer hours. If you have any questions about the guidelines for the Clinics, they are found on the Hotline Committee website link.

GARDEN JUMBLE is set for Saturday, June 26. Look out for volunteer sign-up sheets at the April MAMG meeting. Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday June 25th and for the sale on Saturday June 26th. Keep adding to your collection of sale items.

Garden Jumble sells plants, so please pot up some plants as well. If you plant them now, they will be just the right size to sale in June.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MAMG Landscaping is scheduled for Saturday, June 26 with possible opportunities on Wednesday, June 23 and/or Saturday, June 19. (Weather and construction schedules permitting - need I say more about Memphis weather?) Habitat has changed

its production methods this year. Five houses are being constructed in the Lakes Las Cruces subdivision in Raleigh. MAMG needs landscape designers (one per house), supervisors for the landscaping days, and many worker bees... plus mentors to teach new homeowners about good landscaping techniques once installed. The volunteer sign-up sheets are available now in the MAMG Office and at monthly meetings. This Habitat project is a CoRe sanctioned project, so come on board and hoe, hoe, hoe! Contact: Ray Lagesse.

HOTLINE If you have signed up to volunteer in the Hotline Office, but are unable to make it, PLEASE remember to cancel in a timely fashion as a courtesy to your fellow Master Gardeners, so they may volunteer for the available CoRe/Education taught hours. We now have an on-call sign up option, and if given enough notice, we can call in another person to fill the time slot.

PLANT A ROW IS MOVING TO DAVIES MANOR! This is a very exciting opportunity to have a permanent garden where we can showcase our skills as Master Gardeners as well as provide lots of produce for the Food Bank. And we will be able to add an educational component. Everyone's input is welcome.

Beginning in April, there are regular work days on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Even if you can't sign up for a month at a time, YOU ARE ALWAYS welcome to drop in between 8 and 10 on those day. We needs LOTS of volunteers to set up the raised beds and install deer fencing.

Please save your newspapers! PAR needs these. It would be helpful if you could put those newspapers in plastic lawn or garbage bags as they will need to be stored. You may drop these off during PAR workdays or at regular Master Gardener meetings. Please contact Kay McAdams to volunteer or with any ideas/suggestions.

PLANT CAMP is set for June 7-11. Look out for volunteer sign-up sheets in the office or at the April MAMG meeting. This is a fun project for all of us that love kids.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU For the month of April the following master gardeners will be doing presentations: Al Cook, Jan Dickey, Vicki Dugan, Karen Houdek, Ann McCormick, Donna McComas, Virginia McCurley, John Payne, Debbie Smith, Susan Threkheld and Don Wear.

Master Gardeners have received laudable publicity in the WKNO magazine and on television in anticipation of Karen Houdek's Best Time Workshop on Container Gardening planned for April 13. The public is invited. (See CEU calendar for details.)

Currently the Speakers' Bureau has several unfilled requests. If you can help, please contact Don Wear. Most engagements are low-key garden club events. However, there are public requests from groups such as the library too.

6 April (Tuesday): 7pm

Memphis Horticultural Society presents landscape architect Gavin Duke: "Classical Nature-The Structure of the Garden". Memphis Botanic Garden. Members/free; non-members \$5.

10 April (Saturday): 9am—Noon

Weekend Gardening Seminar presented by Memphis Area Master Gardeners: (see front page) Memphis Botanic Garden. \$3 for Botanic Garden members; \$5 for non-members.

10 April (Saturday): 9am-3pm.

Tipton County Master Gardeners present "**Gear Up Your Landscape for Spring**" at Brighton Middle School gymnasium (7785 Hwy 51S. Brighton. Admission free. Home, lawn, and garden vendors onsite. Contact information: 901.476-8372 or 901.476.0231. Speaker Schedule: 10-11am "Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs" with Lelia S Kelly; 11:30am-12:30pm "Art in the Landscape" with Carol Reese; and 1pm-2pm "Growing Vegetable Transplants" with Tom Mashour. tiptoncountymastergardeners.com

11 April (Sunday): 1pm

Signs of Spring Garden led by MG Judith Hammond. Memphis Botanic Garden. Meet at Visitor's Center. Free with garden admission.

13 April (Tuesday) 2:00 p.m.

WKNO Channel 10 The Best Times. Master Gardener Karen Houdek presents Container Gardening. 7151 Cherry Farms Road, Cordova, TN. Registration Required. Call 729-8735

14 April (Wednesday): noon

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn- "Heirloom Plants for Southern Gardens". Rick Pudwell, Director of Horticulture, will discuss heirloom plants in the Mid-South. Members free/ non-members \$5. Call 901.636.4100

for information. Reservation not required.

15 April (Thursday): 7pm

Mid-South Hosta Society presents Rob Mortko, vice president of American Hosta Society and "**Miracles Out of Nowhere...in Your Hosta Garden and Mine**". Contact information: 662.393.6247

15 April (Thursdays): 9am or 10:30am

Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) classes offered at Memphis Botanic Garden. Pre-registration needed by Tuesday prior to class. Contact Jane Jones (901.683.1163) to register or for more information. Students need to provide a container and kenzan; flowers are provided. Fee \$15 per class.

19 April (Monday): 7pm

Memphis Fern Society presents Ed Salgado, "Mosses and Their Importance". Meeting at Town Village (Park and Cherry). Contact information: 901.685.9835

21 April (Wednesday): 7pm Felder Rushing Lecture. Proceeds will apply to the care and preservation of the more than 150 species of trees that make up the Memphis Botanic Garden Level IV Arboretum. For reservations call 901.636.4111. Presented in partnership with the CA Media Publishers of the Commercial Appeal.

21 April (Wednesday): Noon

Munch and Learn: Join Jesse Howley, Dixon Manager of Grounds Horticulture, for a presentation on the plants that currently blooming at the Dixon, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year in the Garden", with a walk through the Gardens after the presentation. Free with Dixon admission.

23 April (Friday): 7pm. Memphis Bonsai Society presents Bjorn Bjornholm with a lecture and **demonstration** on a Japanese Black Pine.

No reservations required.

24 April (Saturday): 10 am-Noon

"Vince Dooley's Garden- A Horticultural Journey of a Football Coach" Mid-South Hydrangea Society presents speaker Vince Dooley, Master Gardener and former University of Georgia Head Coach and Athletic Director at Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Winegardner Auditorium. \$20 for members of Mid-South Hydrangea Society or the Dixon, \$30 for non-members. Limited seating (200). Advance registration required. Contact the Dixon at 901.761.5250

24 April (Saturday): 10 am Fruiting Trees and Shrubs and the new Southern Living Plant Collection. Stockyard. Free to the Public

25 April (Sunday): 2pm

Memphis Orchid Society presents Tom Harper of Stones River Orchids and a program on "Growing Phalangepopsis" Memphis Botanic Garden. Free. No reservations required.

28 April (Wednesday): Noon Munch and Learn: "Re-use, Reduce, Recycle and Rehydrate?" In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, Guion Benkin, creator of the *Re-Hy Bottle Company*, describes how the company turns glass bottles into functional artwork. **CEU Hours**

1 May (Saturday) 10 a.m. -2:00 p.m

Container Gardens with WOW power. Stockyard. Free to the Public.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES!

If you are aware of an educational event that should be included in the newsletter, please contact mamg.newsletter@gmail.com.

If you would like an item included on the bulletin board, please send details to:

mamg.newsletter@gmail.com

by the 15th of the month before the event.

Dr. Cooper would like us to remember that we are representatives of the Shelby County Extension Service when working at Ask a Master Gardener, Hotline, Plant Sales or any other project that we work as a Master Gardener. As such we are not allowed to recommend specific businesses for plant sales, services or products. We are to use only research based material in our answers. If we do offer our opinion, we must clearly identify it as our opinion as opposed to that of the Extension Service. **AND REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE!**

Stay up to date with Memphis Area Master Gardeners on our website at: <http://memphisareamastergardeners.org/>.

Also please join the discussion on our Facebooks Page: Memphis Area Master Gardeners.

CoRe Project!

Habitat for Humanity MAMG Landscaping

The spring build will be on Saturday, June 26 (weather and construction schedules permitting - need I say more about Memphis weather). There are possible opportunities on Wednesday, June 23, and maybe Saturday, June 19 (weather and construction schedules permitting - need I say more about Memphis weather again). Habitat has changed its production methods this year. Please see CoRe Corner for more details.

The Volunteer sign-up sheets are available now in the Master Gardener Office and at monthly meetings. For additional details, contact Ray Lagesse at rlagesse@southwest.tn.edu or 333-4513.

MENTORS

Please make sure you are making contact with your interns and reporting your contacts. Classes will soon be over and we want the interns to know we still care about them. Thanks. The picnic for all interns completing their hours as well as Mentors and Board Members will be Sat. May 8th



Saturday, April 10
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

GARDENS IN PROGRESS INFORMAL TOURS

We will be visiting Collierville gardens this month. Our hosts will be:

Marcy Turpen, 834-2793,
301 Schilling Blvd,
Collierville, TN

Sherry Douglas, 853-9034,
85 Lake Mist Drive
Collierville, TN.

Beth Vornbrock, 853-7220,
70 Briarwood Circle,
Piperton, TN

Beverly McCormack, 853-9816,
250 Ashley Hall Court
Collierville, TN

(Beverly McCormack will also be part of the Collierville Garden Tour. Master Gardeners NEED to wear their badges or plan to pay \$18.00 to the Collierville Garden Tour)

Gerri Amann, 861-4240,
153 Kathy Circle,
Collierville, TN

Zoe Marshall, 853-3463
281 Fletcher Road
Collierville, TN

Further details including a map will be included with the monthly Gardens In Progress email. Or, visit the members' homepage of the the website at: http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/members/member/gip_apr-10_maps.pdf. You will need to login to access the maps.

Thanks to Mary Klug, Bob Hathaway and Evelyn Mosley for showing their gardens in March.

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Executive Committee
2009/2010

President
Carol Watkins, 2006

Vice - President
Genie Ashworth, 2002

Secretary
Debbie LaChapelle

Treasurer
Tom Mashour, 2005

Directors
Al Cook, 2000

Patsy Courtright, 2008

Immediate Past-President
Kay McAdams, 2002



THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

The purpose of The Association shall be to support and engage in projects and activities of the Extension Service of The University of Tennessee, to enhance the quality of life for the residents of the Greater Memphis Area through horticulture, and to increase the availability of horticulture information and service to the members and the community. - MAMG Bylaws

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The April meeting will be:
Thursday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.
Refreshments begin at 6:00

Topic: **Boxwoods and Evergreens**
Speaker: **Dale Skaggs**, Director of Horticulture at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens and former Shelby County Agent
Location: **AgriCenter Banquet Room, Wing C**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING REFRESHMENTS!



SHARE & LEARN will meet before the membership meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Conference Room. The Session Leader for April's Share & Learn will be Caroline Nave, an expert on Irises.

Thanks to Cat McAndrews for an enlightening discussion of "Green Gardening" in March.

Diggin' It is the official newsletter of the Memphis, Tennessee, Area Master Gardeners.

Please update your address on website or by mailing changes to:

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Master Gardener Website:
<http://memphisareamastergardeners.org>

Articles, ideas and comments may be submitted to the newsletter committee

By Email: MAMG.newsletter@gmail.com
(Preferred)
Or by fax: (901) 328-5670

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the **3rd Monday** of the month prior to the month of publication.

There is no December newsletter. Please check the website for the most current information.

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