

diggin' it!



All the Dirt from the Memphis Area Master Gardeners

Vol. 13, Number 11

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

August 2010

Welcome New Members!

Intern graduation will be Thursday night, August 26 at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Interns, their guests, mentors and those assisting with the event are invited.



Seventy-two interns will be official Memphis Area Master Gardeners at the conclusion of the ceremony. In addition to the class work and testing, these interns:

- Contributed 1,595 volunteer hours to the agricultural extension program,
- Contributed 1,742.25 volunteer hours to community projects in the Memphis area, and
- Earned 853.5 hours in related CEUs!

Our new members will be attending Master Gardener meetings beginning with the September picnic.

Volunteers are still needed for graduation. Please contact Amanda Mooneyham or Kandi Reilly if you would like to help.

Make Your Reservations NOW for September's Picnic

It's almost time for Memphis Area Master Gardeners to meet their new members. Plan on coming and getting acquainted with new friends and old at our annual picnic and social.

This year, as in year's past, the picnic will be at the **Lichterman Nature Center on Thursday September 9.**

We will be trying something new this year for the food. Members will have their choice of **box supper!** But you must act now. **CALL the Master Gardener Office at 752-1207 NO LATER than 3:00 p.m. on September 7 with your choice of box supper.**

The choices are:

- roast beef sandwich,
- turkey sandwich,
- ham sandwich, or
- veggie box.

If you don't call in a selection, there'll be no supper for you!

Besides our social time together, you will also be able to view and vote for this year's scarecrow entries.



Inside

Put on your welcome hat...2

Reducing the Deer Population...4

Staying Safe in the Sun...6

Put on Your Welcome Hat



*A Message from
Our President
—Carol Watkins - '06*

September is a beginning of new things...new school year, fall season, and new members to MAMG from graduating interns. We will be welcoming these members at our

September picnic at Lichterman Nature Center on September 9th. The picnic has become an annual favorite with our membership...great food, great fellowship, and loads of fun.

In the past at this event, we have greeted new members and introduced next year's officers. This has created some competing priorities when it came to the planning process and a challenge for the picnic committee. Since our fiscal year now starts in January, we can throw a wingding of a picnic and give our newest recruits an enthusiastic and heartfelt reception.

As a special graduation gift, all graduating interns will receive a four month membership into our association. This is a great opportunity to get them involved early before the new year starts. There are so many ways to in-

volve new members. Put on your *thinking* hat before you put on that *welcome* hat, and ponder what you can do to make our new members feel at home.

Kay McAdams' new-member seating at our meetings has been a big hit. Thank you, Kay, for that inspiration.

Partner with a new member and sit with him or her in the new member section.

Find out how and why they got involved in Master Gardeners.

Share with them about activities, projects, and committees that have been fun and rewarding for you.

Ask for their ideas and input after they have attended several meetings.

And, of course, simple one-on-one conversation is always a friendly and gracious approach.

Joining a new organization can be intimidating and confusing, even in a friendly and amiable group such as ours. Set a goal of meeting five or more new members at each meeting. Be an MAMG ambassador of goodwill and wear your welcome hat proudly.

—Carol Watkins, MG-'06



CONGRATULATIONS!

The recertification committee has added the following Master Gardeners to those that have completed their 2010 requirements. (New members will be listed next month.)

This year, why not set your sites on the 100 hour pin!

Julie Austin
Sherry Barwick
Jerry Berry
Amy Berthouex
Elsie Bloodworth
Marjorie Bradford
Pat Bryant-Mathes

Anne Carroll Bunting
LeAnn Byrum
Diane Capkovic
Jane Carter
Sheryl Casanova
Sally Colvard
Patsy Courtright
G. A. Crosby
Junius Davidson
Punk Davidson
Mimi Denton
Beth Diaz
William Duffy
Raymond Dunavant
Ian Edward
Baldwin Eng
Yoke-Ling Eng
Mercedes Farnsworth
Bill Ferrell

Nancy L. Ford
Caroline Forster
Martha Garner
Janice Green
Joanne Guyton
Nelda Hamer
Shannon Hammers
Nettys Hasan
Joan Hermann
Brenda Higgins
Robert Hollingsworth
Karen Houdek
Bet Hurdle
Marilyn Hury
Gail Karr
Juanita Kendrick
Don Klotwog
Byron Koelz
Linda Lanier
Julie Ligon
Kay Lindenfeld

Lowell Lott
Mary Elizabeth Mac-Donald
Linda Mallory
Sammy Ann Marshall
Dina Martin
Suzanne Martin
Tom Mashour
Tempia McCowan
Janet Mendel
Judy Mills
Jean O'Neill
Patricia Patterson
John Payne
Kathrine Perryman
Debbie Peyton
Carolyn Poore
Kim Price
Bowman Reid
Kandi Reilly
Trudy Scott

Edward Sharrow
Arleen Siegel
Debbie Smith
Marge Smith
David Sojourner
Sheila Sojourner
Marta St. John
Melissa Taylor
Susan Threlkeld
Robert Turner
Marcia Wade
Phyllis Walker
Barbara Wallace
Jean Ward-Jones
Floyd "Don" Wear
Nancy Wells
Roseann White
Jeanne Williams
Joyce Wilson
Greg Zoller

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of
Memphis Area Master Gardeners
July 15, 2010



MEETING
MINUTES

Deborah LaChapelle-'07
Recording Secretary

123 attendees

President Carol Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

She introduced our UT Extension Director, Cathy Faust, who thanked the Association for their support of the Extension during the recent budget crisis at the County Commission. She thanked us for our support and asked us to update the County Commissioners throughout the year as a reminder of the contributions that we make to the community.

Vice-President Genie Ashworth introduced the speaker, Steve Lucas, who spoke on plants that inhabit tropical rain forests.

President Carol Watkins made the following announcements before the ten minute break.

Volunteers are needed for the **Intern Graduation**, Thursday, August 26, at Memphis Botanic Gardens.

PAR (Plant -a-Row) needs volunteers for Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday, from 7:30-9:30.

Check the sign-up book for volunteer opportunities at **Ask a Master Gardener Clinics** at Lowe's on Saturday and Monday evenings at the **Collierville Victory Garden** during July. Also check the sign-up book for Administration or Teaching opportunities at the **Hotline**.

After the break, President Watkins called the business meeting to order. Treasurer Tom Mashour gave the financial report. He announced that because of the success of Through the Garden Gates and Garden Jumble, cashing a CD this calendar year would not be necessary. He also stated that we have received the tax exemption status and anyone needing to make a major purchase for the Association should contact him or Mary.

Congratulations were given Ray Lagesse and his team for completing five houses and being recognized by Habitat with an award at their June 26 ceremony. Appreciation was given to the hosts for the July 10th Gardens in Progress.

Karen Houdek was thanked for her Share and Learn presentation. The cardboard recycling container has been returned to its original location and potholes in front of the recycle bins have been repaired thanks to Interim Shelby County Mayor Joe Ford, Public Works Director Ted Fox and the Recycle Right Team.

Send any photos of the public garden tours to Julie Morgan at jpmorgan712@bellsouth.com.

The **Fall Weekend Gardening Seminar** is October 2nd. Caroline Forster is requesting photos of any landscape problems (yours or neighbors and friends) to be used for the panel discussion. Send them no later than August 31st to Caroline.

Noon on the Friday before the monthly MAMG meeting is the deadline for e-mailing volunteer hours if they are to appear in the report at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P. M.

Reducing the Deer Population in Your Yard

-by Martha Hester

In the April 2009 edition of *Diggin' It* (available online), the article, "Deer Resistant Plants", listed those plants that are less attractive to deer palates. This article expands on other measures you can take to further reduce your yard's appeal to deer. It's important to discourage deer from your yard as soon as you notice them coming. Break bad habits ASAP! First you must determine the true culprit of your damage by looking at the type and location of damage, as well as identifying any surrounding animal tracks. Because deer do not have upper incisors, twigs and leaves will be torn and jagged; rodents and rabbits eat the leaves and twigs with clean and sharp cuts. Deer can cause damage up to six feet above ground, while rabbits' and rodents' damage will be limited to ground level.

To discourage deer, it is recommended that you dead head when possible, remove fallen fruits, and amend to enrich the soil to stimulate growth. Chemical fertilizers force tender new growth throughout the season and the deer just love that tender new growth.

Listed below are several methods that are considered effective.

Barrier Method. The barrier method consists of wall or fence-like structures built around specific



areas to prevent deer access. Plastic tree wraps and woven wire cylinders will protect the trunk from damage by deer. If you are concerned about a few plants in a very small space, a 4 to 5 foot fence is theoretically high enough to protect for those vegetables or other tasty treats because the space is too small for the deer to leap into. If the protected area is a bit larger, you can double fence, leaving about 38 inches between the fences. A tall fence is another option for the larger garden because deer can jump up to eight feet high. All fences must be anchored with iron stakes that go well into the ground. Because deer can force their way under the fencing, you need to stake the fencing every few feet. An attractive option may be an 8 foot lattice to section off particularly vulnerable parts of the

yard. This may provide an attractive screen while still restricting the deer, perhaps near the house or around a patio.

The article "Deer", in *Prevention and Control of Wildlife Damage- 1994*, located in the Master Gardener office, provides detailed methods and measurements of fencing. It includes electric fencing, woven fencing, slanted fencing, etc.

Scare Method: Scare methods are those through visual and noise that are intended to frighten the deer from the area you're trying to protect. These tactics are felt to be effective initially, but the deer quickly adjust to the method of choice. Scare tactics include recorded barking dog sounds, noise cannons, etc. One visual deterrent is aluminum foil strips hung in trees and on bushes. These may be considered unsightly or annoying choices.

Chemical/Repellant Method: Chemical/Repellant deterrents are those that use actual chemicals, commercially or homemade, that the deer find offensive. Something as simple as Dial soap, with a hole bored in it and then strung or strip-tied and hung on tree branches, can be very effective. Several commercially available repellants, such as DeerAway, have proven effective. When using chemicals, follow directions and switch from one to another periodically so the deer don't become accustomed to the smell or taste. Auburn University Department of Horticulture has done extensive testing and have found that a putrescent egg-based spray by Havahart is the most effective. A similar and very effective product can be made at home for under \$2.00.

My sister-in-law, Lynne, has an organic recipe that was given to her by a local garden shop. Although NOT UT researched or approved, my sister attests that it works.

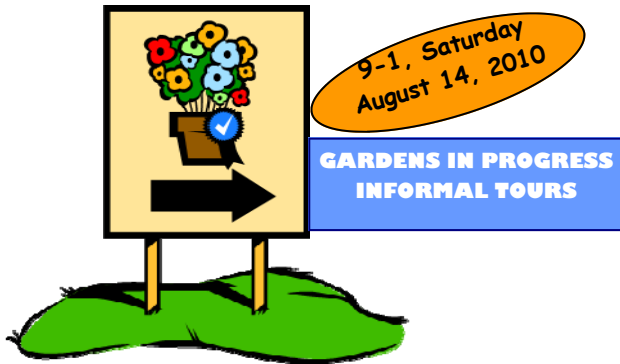
The recipe is as follows:

(Continued on page 5)

- 1) Crack a dozen eggs into an empty one gallon milk jug and shake to break the yolks
- 2) Fill with water, cap the top, shake gently to mix and set aside for a couple of days.
- 3) Invert to mix
- 4) Pour the putrid mixture around the perimeter of the area to be protected.

While it will smell terrible for a day or so, she reports that it does not smell after that initial time period. It's recommended that it be repeated after heavy rains, but Lynne says that isn't necessary. She repeats this process every couple of months or as needed

There are no easy answers and everyone seems to have a story of successes and failures. Let me know what works and doesn't work for you.



Looking for new ideas for your garden? There's no better way to get them than visiting gardens of fellow master gardeners.

Each garden visited counts for 1/2 hour CEU

**Jan and Whit Whitaker,
165 E. Lawnwood Dr., Collierville, TN**

Jan describes their garden as unconventional...a little "southern tacky". There are 3 bottle trees and a painted bed springs used as a trellis for moon vine. Whit describes it as raised beds, shade garden with hostas, ferns, native trees and deciduous holly. It is planted for butterflies with a little bit of everything.

**Jan Dickey,
11100 Shelby Post Rd., Collierville, TN**

Jan's garden is a "hodge podge" of sun and shade planted for butterflies and hummingbirds. There is an arbor for angel trumpets and moon flowers. She also has a small rose garden.

**Bet Hurdle,
774 Polo Run Dr., Collierville, TN**

Bet describes her garden as a southern garden filled with pass-along plants. She has mature shrubs, a fountain, and a porch from which she can enjoy her garden. Azaleas and hollies can be found across the back of her garden.

**Joanne Watson,
10350 Alton Cove, Collierville, TN**

Their front of Joanne's garden is shady with a pond less waterfall. Her backyard is sunny with newly installed concrete curbing. She describes her garden as an evolving one that is in the process of being expanded.

**Shannon Hammers,
736 Pebworth Lane, Collierville, TN**

Shannon decorates her garden rooms as one would their home. She uses vines for walls, making rooms for vegetables, roses and hostas. Perennials and annuals are added for color, with dry creek beds solving her drainage problems.

Anyone interested in being a garden host, please contact Jean Ward-Jones. Four hours of teaching credit will be given.

Maps are available on the members side of the Memphis Area Master Gardeners' site.

MOTHER NATURE'S LITTLE HELPERS:

Cut about 18" section of old panty hose, place small bars of soap, or ones too small to use in tub or sinks, into middle of panty hose. Tie knot at top and hang over your outside faucet. Great for washing your hands before you come inside and even better to wash off your work gloves and leave outside to dry.



Linda Phillips, MG-'99

RECYCLE RIGHT VOLUNTEERS

A Big Thank you for your help in getting the cardboard container back on Smythe Rd. along with the other roll-off containers. Thanks to Interim County Mayor Joe Ford and Director of Public Works Ted Fox, the cardboard container was returned as well as all 46 pot holes where repaired after our discussion at Garden Jubilee. Thanks volunteers.

Reminder: **Habitat Design course on August 29.** The location will be at East Win Christian Church from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The church is located at 4350 Hacks Cross Road.

NOTES

WEEKEND GARDENING SEMINAR-

Saturday, October 2

WE NEED YOUR GARDENING PROBLEMS

Please take a photo of a problem area in your lawn; or ask a neighbor or friend if they have an area in their lawn they would like a panel of landscape experts to offer a solution.

Al Cook will be happy to assist with emailing the photo. Since all phone photos will not give a clear picture please use a camera and send as a jpg file. Use your name as name of the photo file. Please let us know the specific problem for which you want a suggested solution from the panel. The photos need to be sent in by August 31. The selected photos will be sent to each of the panelists so they can study them. They will be projected on a screen the day of the seminar for the audience to see the problem and the panel will give their solutions.

You will get one A or C hour and one hour CoRe for sending in a photo of a problem area for use by the Dream Team at the seminar. What a deal! Help from professionals and hours too.

Intern Graduation—

Thursday, August 26

Volunteers NEEDED.

This is the first year the graduation will be at the Botanic Garden. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up and food preparation.

As always, food donations receive 1 hour credit and anyone working at the site will receive credits for the hours they work. Hours may be counted as **Administrative or Community Service Hours.**

Contact Amanda Mooneyham or Kandi Reilly.

Sign up books are in the MAMG office.

Find out about more opportunities on the member side of the website and at the Extension Office. Thank you!

Stay Safe in the Sun

It's been hot outside. In fact, according to the NOAA National Weather Service, this is the hottest summer ON RECORD for Memphis based on the minimum temperatures at night.

The emergency rooms have seen an upswing in heat related strokes and deaths. Don't be a statistic. Stay safe outdoors by recognizing the early signs of too much heat. These may include:

- cessation of sweating,
- increase in heart rate,
- hearing loss,
- feeling dizzy or lightheaded,
- confusion,
- fatigue,
- irritability
- headache.

If cramping, nausea, vomiting or fainting kick-in, you may already be severely dehydrated and should consider medical attention.

Other tips for safety:

Garden early or late, not during the heat of the day.

Wear a hat to shade your head. Also add a cool damp scarf around your neck.

If you are with someone who has clearly had too much sun, perform first aid including getting him out of the sun, covering him with cool damp sheets and giving him cool water or a NON ALCOHOLIC, NON CAFFEINATED beverage. Both alcohol and caffeine increase dehydration. Directing a fan at him is also helpful.

Shelter not available? Put your heat victim in the car and drive around with ac vents pointing on him. (Of course, cool the car first!)

If he has fainted, is incoherent or is trembling, call 911 WHILE performing first aid measures. Your fast action may make all the difference.

—Russell Beis, MD—MG '08

Collierville Victory Garden— Gardening Demonstrations and Ask a Master Gardener Clinic. Each second and fourth Monday from 6:30—8:30 p.m. Bring a plant and your questions. 485-6910. CVG

August 5 & 19. Ikebana Class. Classes offered at 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Ikebana is a continuous and life-long practice of the fine art of Japanese flower arranging. No experience necessary. Advanced classes also available (by invitation only). Students need to provide a container and kenzan, flowers are provided. 9:30 & 10:30 classes are the same, please choose one. Fee is \$15 per class. Pre-registration required by Tuesday prior; contact Patti Lechman at 512-9916. MBG

August 11. Brown Bag Lunch and Learn. Whimsical Garden Wonders with Paul Little. 12 noon. Paul Little treats us to a visual tour of fairy houses, playful plantings, and other fantastical creations for spaces large and small. Bring your lunch or enjoy a box lunch from Fratelli's at the garden. Members FREE/non-members \$5. Call 636-4100 for information. No reservations required. MBG

August 12. 10:30am Cutting and Conditioning Flowers- Garden Talk. Join Floriculturist Greg Francis as he tours the Dixon Gardens demonstrating appropriate techniques of cutting plant materials to use in floral arrangements. Free with Dixon admission. Hughes Pavillion. Contact: 761-5250

August 14. 2—3 p.m. Family Gardening Series: Wiping the slate clean-Preparing the garden for fall planting. Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults

will have Garden Talk and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL. MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2/non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4. Call 636-4126 for reservations. MBG

August 18: Noon Munch and Learn 'Gone to Seed'. Starting plants from seed can be both fruitful and fun. Join Dixon Greenhouse and Cutting Garden Manager Manjula Carter to learn how to start seeds indoors and out. Free with Dixon admission.

21 August: 9am-3pm Does Your Yard Measure Up? Home Landscape Workshop. At the Shelby County Extension Office, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Suite B, Box 21, Memphis, TN 38120-2140. Cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Advance registration is required for both dates. Space is limited to 25 participants. To register or for more information, call 752-1207

August 22: 1pm-4pm "The Garden Style of the Victorian Era". Join us at the Woodruff Fontaine House Museum for the presentation. The speaker will focus on four points of interest: the origin of the victorian garden, flower favorites in a victorian garden, elements of the victorian garden and victorian gardens to visit. 680 Adams Avenue, Memphis 38105. Cost: Museum Members (free); Non-members...\$15. Contact: Cat McAndrews cat-mac716@gmail.com

August 28. Family Gardening Series: Cooling Off-Cool weather crops for the south. 2-3 p.m. Learn all you ever wanted to know to have a successful Family Garden! Adults will have Garden Talk

and Q&A with a gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with a Garden PAL (Play and Learn instructor). MBG members-Adults: \$4, Children: \$2/non-members: Adults: \$8, Children: \$4. Call 636-4126 for reservations. MBG

28 August. 10:30am Hands-on Leaf Casting Workshop Create your own birdbath or attractive garden ornament with MG Donna Olswing and Dale Skaggs. Includes all materials and instructions. Bring your own large leaf, or use one provided. Catmur Horticulture Building. Reservations required. Contact: 761-5250 Dixon

September 8. Noon. Dixon Munch and Learn- *"Fall's Fabulous Finish"*. Join Ellen LeBlond as she discusses fall's blooming palette and gardening tips which will keep your garden looking fresh until season's end. Free with Dixon admission. Contact: 761-5250

Plan Ahead For:

October 2, 2010. Master Gardener's **WEEKEND GARDENING SEMINAR** "The Dream Team Tackles Landscape Issues". If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Caroling Foster at camp-caroline514@yahoo.com. MBG

October 8—10. Natives and Beyond: Sustainable Plants, Gardens and Communities. Dixon.

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

Shelby County Extension
Office
Agricenter International
7777 Walnut Grove Road
Suite B, Box 21
Memphis, TN 38120-2140

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 meeting will be:

Thursday, August 12

Refreshments begin at 6:00 - Please bring some if you can!

Topic: Perennials, Tier Two

Speaker: Ellen Leblond

Location: AgriCenter Banquet Room, Wing C

Need hours? Remember that attending membership meetings helps you get both CEU and administrative hours!



SHARE & LEARN will meet before the membership meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Extension Office Conference Room.

Frogs in Your Garden
by Anne Krekelberg

If you are interested in doing Share & Learn during 2011, please contact Jean Ward Jones

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

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

Mary Wade
Shelby County Extension Office
Agricenter International
Suite B, Box 21
7777 Walnut Grove Road
Memphis, TN 38120
Phone Number 752-1207
Fax number 752-6240
Email: mwade2@utk.edu

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.

©2010
Memphis Area Master Gardeners
All rights reserved.