

diggin' it!



All the Dirt from the Master Gardeners of Greater Memphis Area

Volume 15 Number 2

February 2012



Spring Fling Has a New Date!

Spring Fling has a new date! Due to a conflict with the Red Barn, our event is now re-scheduled for **March 23/24**. If you signed up to work, you should have received a call from Phyllis Walker and her volunteer committee. If not, please call her to confirm your work slot.

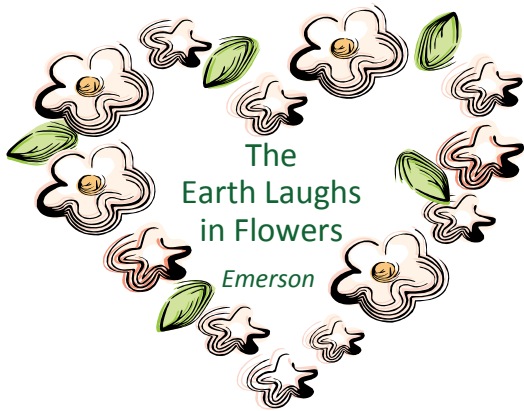
Spring Fling is the major revenue producer for the Memphis Area Master Gardeners. Your continued support helps make this event one of the finest in the mid-south area. There are several ways you can help:

- Donate plants! The plant area is our second largest area for profit. All plants will be labeled with a new uniform label this year. The February Share & Learn will feature the division & potting of plants and examples of our new labeling format.
- When you donate 5 or more plants you earn one volunteer hour.
- Bake something delicious for our concession area. Be sure to follow the health department guidelines for labeling.
- Make finger food for our vendor/volunteer party Thursday night.
- Release your inner garden gnome and craft *garden themed items* for our MAMG Craft Booth. Please call Greg or Marian Zoller if you plan to donate a handcrafted item so they can save enough space in the booth.
- Participate in the MG Photograph Display! The theme will be *Bees and Insects Around the Flower World*.
- Help find new vendors. We need your help to ensure we offer the public the best of the best at this event. Call us with your suggestions and feel free to talk us up with your favorite vendors! Vendor rentals are our number one revenue producer!
- **Chair the parking lot area committee which manages traffic at the event.** You can work one day or both! Call Linda Taylor immediately if you can help.
- Donate gardening books and magazines (such as *Birds and Blooms*) for resale. Take them to our February or March meeting or drop them off at the UT Extension Office.
- Find a sponsor and/or sell an ad for our Ad Booklet. Do you have a business or work for a business which will buy an ad in our Ad Booklet? Ads start at only \$40 — great exposure to 2,000 potential customers!

Health Department forms, new plant labels, volunteer sign-up sheets and other information will be available at our February and March Meetings. A copy of the new plant label is available on page 7 of this newsletter. Please call Linda Taylor, event chairman, if you have any questions.

Mid-South Hosta Society

Jason Reeves, ornamental horticulturist at the UT Jackson Station, will open the MSHS 2012 programs. The event will be held on February 16 at 7pm at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Jason's topic will be, "Friends in the Shade Garden; Keeping Your Hosta Company." Members Free; Visitors, \$5.



PAR NEWS

Major work days at the Collierville Victory PAR Garden, weather allowing, are tentatively scheduled for February 25 (8am to noon), March 24, and April 28. After that time, work hours will be most Mondays from 5-7pm. Contact Carl Wayne Hardeman, or go online at Colliervillevictorygarden.org.

The other two PAR gardens are the Davies Plantation Garden and the Shelby Farms Garden. Both plan to begin working in March. The sign-up books will be at the February meeting and in the office thereafter. Please contact the team leader listed on the sign-up page if you have any concerns about whether or not the workday will be cancelled due to bad weather/extreme cold, etc.

THE MEMPHIS AREA MASTER GARDENERS
AND MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN
PRESENT

THE DREAM TEAM STEPS UP TO CURB APPEAL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18 9 A.M. TO 12 NOON
HARDIN HALL, MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDENS

Does your front entry need sprucing up? Wondering how to achieve the best view both from the street and out your window?
Getting your house ready to sell or rent?

THE DREAM TEAM PANEL HAS THE SOLUTIONS!

Join designers & stagers Patty Rainey and Tommie Criswell-Jones for "Making the First Impression," landscaper Mary Iberg for "Achieving the Look," and horticulturalist Rick Pudwell for "Dressing it Up"

\$3.00 for Botanic Garden members
\$8.00 for non-members
Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

For further information please contact Caroline Forster at 901-384-8979 or call the Memphis Area Master Gardeners Office at 901-752-1207

www.memphisareamastergardeners.org

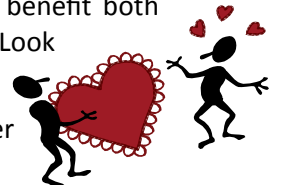


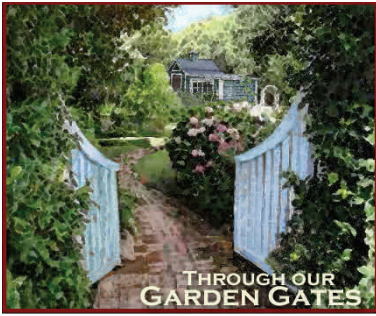
Newsletter Updates

Be assured that members who get their newsletter delivered by post can continue to do that. However, if you do get it by post and would like it by email instead, please go into your profile on our website and change your settings. Each newsletter that is mailed costs about one dollar in printing and postage. Emailing is free and we are counting our pennies!

Also, please note that many of the articles which are in the newsletter are shortened versions of a longer piece that our members have written. These articles are informative and well researched and would benefit both members and the public. We are attempting to place the full article on our website or blog. Look for the change soon!!

Please contact Barbara Culligan or Greg Hoffman if you have any questions about the newsletter or if you would like to contribute an article.





Through Our Garden Gates

The Through Our Garden Gates Tour will be held on Saturday, June 2nd from 9am to 4pm.. The gardens featured will be in the Cordova and Bartlett areas. This year the Davies PAR Garden will be on the tour for the first time. Master Gardeners who are opening their gardens for the event are Anne Krekelberg, Tom Rieman, Jean Ward-Jones, and Anne & Jim Zaner.

The tour requires many hours of volunteer work on the part of our members. The work starts months before the event to help the homeowner present their garden. Volunteers help with tidying up, weeding, planting, ... all the things that make a garden look like it belongs on the cover of *Birds and Blooms* magazine. Volunteer sheets will be available for sign-up at the February and March member meetings. There are many jobs that need to be done; see if your skills match any of the jobs below.

- Are you comfortable talking with the public? Are you somewhat familiar with plant materials and willing to learn about new plants in a tour garden? Do you understand the importance of representing the MAMG in a professional manner? Are you willing to learn the botanical names for plants (& get up to 3 CEU hours)? Can you stand and walk around a garden for the better part of a shift? Then, you would be ideal as a **Garden Guide!**
- Are you friendly and outgoing? Are you comfortable working with money and giving directions to the public, when needed? Do you like the idea of being the face of the MAMG to the public? Are you a people person? **Admissions Worker** would be a perfect fit for you!
- Are you interested in work behind the scenes? Looking for flexible days to worker to work on the weekends? Then, working as a **Garden Prepper** is the job for you!
- Are you capable of standing for the better part of a shift? Can you be assertive, when needed, to direct traffic and guide the public with parking options? Do you look good in safety orange? We need you as a **Traffic Monitor!**

Business Owners: For only \$200 you can sponsor this fabulous event!

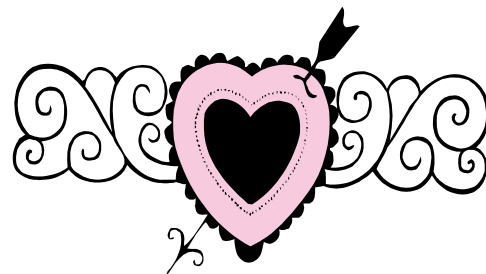
Follow us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/ThroughOurGardenGatesGardenTour](https://www.facebook.com/ThroughOurGardenGatesGardenTour)

Orchid Presentation

The Memphis Orchid Society is presenting a program "Orchids of Eastern Australia" by Eric Hunt, an orchid photographer. The meeting will be held at the Memphis Botanic Garden, February 26th at 2pm. Visitors welcome. Online: memphisorchids.org.

MENTOR REMINDER

Mentors please remember to contact your intern this month. Contact Linda Phillips so she knows our interns are being helped to get them involved. Thanks again for your commitment!



Master Gardeners Speak

This month we are starting a new column called *Master Gardeners Speak*. A MAMG member will be chosen to share their experiences by answering the question "What does it mean to you to be a Master Gardener?" Linda Phillips, Lifetime Member, was first to be chosen. Here's Linda's answer (edited for space considerations):

"Sharing comes to mind when I think about why I became a Master Gardener in 1999. I just love to share what I have to offer, whether it is my knowledge, time, energy, money, or just good old-fashioned enthusiasm.

As a Master Gardener volunteer many Memphians know me as "Miss Recycle Right," from teaching the incoming intern classes for the last seven years, speaking at schools, churches, garden and civic clubs about the importance of being good stewards of our environment.

Wanting to encourage the interns while they are becoming MAMGs, I have overseen the Mentor Program since its inception. Each spring the interns and guests are invited to our place in the woods for fun and food allowing Jerry and me to share nature's beauty.

I always learn something new when I share with others and they with me and that is why I LOVE being a Lifetime Master Gardener."



Reminders

- Remember to visit the MAMG and TMG Facebook pages. Be sure to check on the MAMG website frequently, and to read Suzanne Allen's blog. Sign up for the online TN Master Gardener newsletter, *Taking Root*.
- Please update any contact information that may have changed recently. Your profile can be accessed through the MAMG website.
- The Winter School brochure is on the MAMG website. The event will be held in Murfreesboro on February 9th and 10th. The cost is \$75.

Our Member Directors

Member Directors represent members. The membership is divided by graduation year into three groups and each group has a Member Director. The Directors act on behalf of the members to bring questions, projects, ideas, etc to the Board. Members should always feel free to contact their Member Director with any concern. The Member Directors are:

**Junior Director* (2009 to 2011): Robert Hollingsworth, MG'09;

**Senior Director* (2001 to 2008): Vicki Duggins, MG'03; and,

**Lifetime Director* (Lifetime Members): Linda Taylor, Lifetime Member, MG'98.

Habitat Spring 2012 Landscaping Dates

Sign up for the Spring 2012 Habitat build is now in progress. The landscaping dates are "tentative" for Friday/April 20, Saturday/May 5 and Wednesday/May 9. Any of these dates may change due to weather or construction build schedules. Sign up sheets will be available in the MAMG office or at the Habitat display at the February Fair. Rumor is that the Habitat display will be located adjacent to the kissing booth at the fair. Contact Jeff Golladay if you have questions.



MAMG Monthly Meeting

January 12, 2011

170 Attendees

President Jean Ward-Jones called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Program/Speaker: Anne Krekelberg introduced the speaker, Russell Demotsis, Environmental Specialist at Mirimichi Golf Course. He spoke on the development, horticulture and landscaping at Mirimichi which is the first golf course to be certified as an Audubon Sanctuary. Russell was assisted in his presentation by his consultant, Diane Meucci of Gardens Oy Vey. MG's are invited to visit at 6195 Woodstock Cuba Road in Millington.

President Jean Ward Jones presented Past President Genie Ashworth with two beautiful flower pots from the 2011 Board to show their appreciation for all she has done.

Business Meeting: UT Extension Update: Dr. Chris Cooper recognized the new Life Members having completed ten years of service to the association. "Life members are our backbone, and we want to show our appreciation."

Amy Berthouex	Nancy Davis	Gerlene Lifer	Susan Threlkeld
Marjorie Bradford	Laura Edwards	Dina Martin	Robert Turner
Ginger Coleman	Jim Gafford	Emelia Miekicki	Joan Vandiveer
Sally Colvard	Carolyn Gibson	Betty Mulholland	Phyllis Walker
Junius Davidson	Juanita Kendrick	Kathrine Perryman	Don Wear
Punk Davidson	Linda Lanier	Donna Shepherd	Louise Williams

Presentation of and Vote on 2012 Budget President Jean Ward-Jones recognized and thanked the Budget Committee. She then began the budget presentation by explaining that the \$15,281.93 in CD's was saved because some years ago membership became concerned we might have to help pay the salary of our extension agent, so they worked and put away money for that possibility. In today's environment, that possibility still exists. For the last two years, we have generated less income than we have spent, and we have dipped into those reserves. She questioned how long we could do that, then explained that the Board had chosen to present a balanced budget. She mentioned concerns about the income—bad weather could seriously impact two of the events. Garden Jumble was added to bring in new income, but would not cushion any loss in other events. She added that most committees got what they requested and cuts were only made in areas of Administration and Social Events. The Board recommended cutting the \$2,000 Scholarship fund back to \$1,000 since we only paid \$500 last year. Jean said that because income is at risk, the Board planned to (a) reinstate the Development Team, (b) asked that everyone contact Jerry Berry for all print needs because he could get the best price, (c) look at grants—PAR and Youth Education are targeted areas, (d) encourage getting plants ready to sell at Spring Fling, Garden Jumble, (e) perhaps a fall plant sale, and, (f) lastly, consider asking for an increase in dues for 2013. Ray Lagesse made a motion to approve the Budget as presented. There were several seconds. Questions were answered. "What is Garden Jumble?" Jean explained that it is like a garden yard sale and open to the public. She asked for volunteers to chair that committee. "What are scholarships for?" She explained they are awarded to students who are majoring in horticultural studies. "What are Restricted Funds?" She explained that donations are often made and reserved for a specific use. Jerry Berry called for the vote and the budget passed unanimously.

New Business All committee chairs and co-chairs were recognized. The program for the February meeting is a Committee Fair. Find out everything you ever wanted to know about our committees and projects. Chairs please contact Theresa Caldwell or Mimi Denton to make your plans. Winter School - Feb. 9-10. Five people will get a refund on their registration, down from ten last year. BWI Garden Supplies will be reinstated this year under the guidance of Diane Capkovic.

Announcements Thanks to Katy Terrell for the Share & Learn program; thanks to the Zollers and the Zaners for their work on the holiday social. Sign up for Spring Fling T-shirts, available in February and March. Chris Glover, the lead for magazine sales at Spring Fling, asks you to save your old magazines and books and bring them to the February and March meetings or take them to the office. Hosts for Through Our Garden Gates were recognized: Anne Krekelberg, Tom Rieman, Jim and Ann Zaner, Davies PAR and Jean Ward-Jones. Watch for details in the February newsletter; sign-ups for volunteers will be ready at the February meeting, and—for the first time, Master Gardeners, and only Master Gardeners, will have a chance to sponsor the tour—more details to come. Call Kathy Sammons if you want to participate in classes making grocery bag purses. Contact Ed Sharrow regarding the Lichterman Nature Center Seed Swap on January 28.

All were reminded that dues and a signed memorandum of agreement were due tonight. A member asked what is the memorandum of agreement and when was the requirement that it be signed presented to members. Jean explained that it was a requirement from U.T. June Davidson announced an organizational meeting for the Daffodil Society. Jean reminded everyone to provide her with all announcements before the meeting.

Next MAMG membership meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2012 — IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER, IF THE CITY SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, WE WILL NOT HAVE A MEETING.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm; Share and Learn: 1.0 CEU; Speaker: 1.0 CEU; Business Meeting: 0.5 ADM

THE FLORAL LANGUAGE OF LOVE

By Jane Carter, MG'08

In the language of love, flowers have been woven into poetry, myth, art, and lore through the centuries in the East and the West. Color, fragrance, and growth habit were all considered when assigning symbolism to a flower. During the Victorian era, flowers became an important part of a social and secret code for ladies and gentlemen, both in England and America. From the secret codes, lists were circulated which provided meaning for each flower and flower code books were published as well. The following brief list describes the meanings assigned flowers through the years.



Allium (Liliaceous) is said to bring good fortune and prosperity. Like the other members of its family, onions and garlic, allium was thought to ward off evil. Just read the *Odyssey*. Allium means garlic in Latin.

Daffodil (Narcissus – Amaryllidaceae) meant chivalry in Victorian England, since it could stand tall in the snow waiting for the rest of the flowers to bloom. *The sweet of year when daffodils begin to peer.* — Shakespeare



Yellow, Red, and White Rose (Rosa): The yellow rose stood for domestic happiness and humble love. From ancient times the red rose has been associated with beauty and deep love. Cleopatra scattered red rose petals in her chamber to seduce Marc Antony. White roses generally convey purity and silence. *And I will make thee beds of roses, And a thousand fragrant posies.* - Marlowe



Wisteria (Milettia) blossoms stand for gentleness and obedience in Asia but for Victorians, wisteria blooms meant “I cling to thee.” *The Amen! Of Nature is always a flower.* - Holmes

As we all know, flowers can mean a great many things but for most of us just giving or receiving flowers means we love and appreciate their astounding beauty. Life is short; don't wait! Give flowers to someone you care about today or any day!

Two books you might like to read: *The Country Flowers of a Victorian Lady* and *The Meaning of Flowers*.

Notes

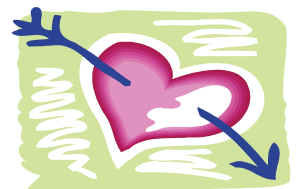
The Commercial Appeal has published a great article by Ava Middleton, MG'09 on winter sowing. Here's the link: <http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/jan/27/winter-sowing-for-jump-on-spring/>

The US Department of Agriculture has recently published a new planting zone map. The zone for Memphis has gone from 7A to 7B. Here's the link: <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>



Show & Tell Fair

Remember to check out the Show & Tell Fair at the February member meeting. The chairs of our committees and projects will display exhibits concerning their work and will answer any questions you have. You can also get hands-on help if you aren't sure how to register your volunteer hours online. Sign-up sheets for committees and projects will also be available.



MAMG Development Chair

The Board is looking for a member to chair the new Development Committee. The committee will be responsible for creating new sources of revenue for MAMG including grants and sponsorships. Call Jean Ward-Jones if you can help.



The Sycamore Tree

In the winter forest, the striking white form of the towering Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) makes it easy to identify. Because of this distinguishing feature, the Cherokee tribe referred to the Sycamore as, the “Ghost of the Forest.” In 1772, The Watauga Association, the first government in what is now Tennessee, was formed under the shade of a Sycamore tree. An early settler in the Ohio Territory described a stream bank as “thickly clothed with large Sycamore trees whose lofty tops & pendant branches leaned over the shores.” Native to the eastern United States Sycamores can live for hundreds of years. More than 200 years old and with a 17-foot circumference, “The Carahills II Family Tree,” is a Tennessee Landmark Sycamore. It is registered in Galloway in Fayette County.

The American Sycamore is easily recognized by broad, maple-like leaves and its mottled, exfoliating bark. The bark of the trunk and larger limbs flakes off in great irregular masses leaving the surface mottled, greenish white and gray and brown. Sometimes the smaller limbs look as if whitewashed. Very often it divides into two or more trunks near the ground and its massive branches form a wide, irregular crown.

Although it can be spotted throughout the Memphis area, the Sycamore is most abundant along the Wolf and Nonconnah Rivers and their tributaries. Preferring the moist well-drained soil of riverbanks, the Sycamore is essential to riparian health. Its roots stabilize river banks and filter contaminants. The fruit of the Sycamore provides food for finches, chickadees, juncos and squirrels. Hollow cavities in older Sycamores are often homes to owls, bats, honeybees, & chimney swifts.

By Jan Castillo, MG, '05

Common Name: _____

Botanical Name: _____

Description: _____

Color: _____ **Bloom time:** _____

Light: _____

Height: _____ **Width:** _____

Notes: _____



Memphis Area Master Gardeners
www.memphisareamastergardeners.org

Daffies, Daffies and More Daffies

The Mid-South Daffodil Society is holding a MG Fun Daffodil Show at our regular member meeting on March 8th. Please bring no more than 5 blooms per person. The group will have tubes and bases set up in the hall. Blooms can be entered at social time between 6pm and 6:30pm. Judging will be during the meeting and prizes will be awarded at the Business Meeting. The Society is also busy planning its second annual Daffodil Show on March 17th and 18th which will be held at the Dixon.

Shelby County Extension Office

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Memphis, TN 38120-2140
Phone 901.752.1207
Fax 901.752.6240

Executive Committee 2012

President

Jean Ward-Jones, MG'02

Vice - President

Anne Krekelberg, MG'09

Recording Secretary

Nancy Davis, MG'01

Corresponding Secretary

Melissa Taylor, MG'09

Treasurer

Jerry Berry, MG'08

Directors

Robert Hollingsworth, MG'09

Vicki Duggins, MG'03

Linda Taylor, MG'98

Parliamentarian

Jim Volgas, MG'99

Immediate Past-President

Genie Ashworth, MG'02

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

February Member Meeting

Thursday, February, 9th, 2012

Show & Tell Fair

AgriCenter International Banquet Room

Wing C

6:30pm

Share and Learn

Division and Potting of Plants

AgriCenter Conference Room

Building B, 2nd Floor

5pm-6pm



The newsletter needs your help!

Articles, ideas and comments

may be submitted to the newsletter committee:

E-mail: MAMG.newsletter@gmail.com

Master Gardener Website:

<http://memphisareamastergardeners.org>

<http://mamgmusings.blogspot.com/>



Diggin' It is the official newsletter of the Memphis Area Master Gardening Program.

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

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