

diggin' it!

All the Dirt from the Memphis Area Master Gardeners

Volume 16 Number 7

July 2013

Summer Celebration This Thursday

This year's annual Summer Celebration Lawn & Garden Show will take place on Thursday, July 11th from 10 am to 6 pm. This year's theme is "Wild Tennessee" so there will be presentations of Tennessee's native trees and shrubs as well as the animals, reptiles and insects that are found in the state. Eighteen other presentations held throughout the day include Best Plants for Butterflies; Organic and Herb Gardening, and, Gardens of New Zealand. Some of the many other activities at Summer Celebration:



- The Master Gardener Plant Sale highlights specific plants which do well in our area. This year some of the plants available at the sale will include summer chocolate mimosa, *Ruby Slippers* oak leaf hydrangea; *Mini Pearl*, a hybrid tall garden phlox; *Ruby Falls*, a compact weeping redbud; *Tokyo Tower*, an upright Chinese fringe tree; two types of Asian magnolias; and common edgeworthia.
- Tours of the newly expanded conifer gardens, as well as the annual and perennial trial beds will be available. Carol Reese and Jason Reeves will do a tour of the grounds that focuses on the native plants used in the landscaping of the center.
- The UT Kitchen Divas' cooking demonstration, "Eggcellent Ideas Throughout the Day" is held hourly starting at 10 am. Stop by Room 162 for a reservation ticket as soon as you arrive at Summer Celebration since the tickets go very quickly. Tickets are free with admission.
- Experts will man the Plant and Insect Diagnostic Center to identify weeds, disease and insect damage. Additionally, free testing of soil pH levels will be offered, so bring a cup of soil from your landscape.
- The AgResearch wagon tour ride will tour areas of the farm not generally open to the public.

This one-day gardening event is held at the UT Gardens Jackson, located at the West Tennessee AgResearch & Education Center in Jackson, TN. Shopping at the Master Gardeners plant sale and vendors tent starts at 9 am. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children 17 and under. Look for more information and a schedule of events at this website: <http://west.tennessee.edu/events/SummerCeleb.asp>. Attendance at Summer Celebration earns MAMG CEU credit.



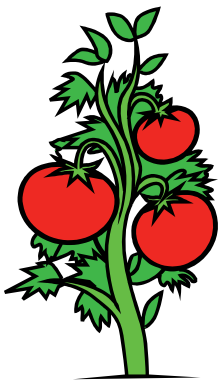
Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Cooper and his wife Hope on the birth of their bouncy baby boy! Mason Christopher Cooper was born prematurely on April 1st, coming into the world at just one pound, 9 ounces. After a harrowing first three months, Mason went home last Friday weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces!! Dr. Chris and Hope are overjoyed to finally have little Mason safe and sound in his own crib at home!

MAMG Blog

Be sure to regularly check our blog <http://mamgmusings.blogspot.com/>. The blog is a compendium for the many bits of horticultural knowledge, stories, photos, ideas, links, and jokes that the Memphis Area Master Gardeners share with each other on a daily basis. Suzanne Allen, MG'10 does a great job of writing the blog postings; the posts regarding PAR Davies are particularly informative!

July Member Meeting



The next member meeting is July 18, 2013. This is the third Thursday of the month, rather than our usual second Tuesday, because of Summer Celebration.

The July meeting will consist of a 'Tomato Tasting' and talks by Carl Wayne and Bill Colvard about growing tomatoes. The tasting will be in the same time slot as the refreshments, and we would like it if a good bit of the food brought for refreshments could be tomato related. PAR Davies and PAR Collierville will also be bringing the many varieties of tomatoes grown in their plots. Carl Wayne will have his gourmet garlic too, which will be for sale with proceeds going to a local charity. MG's are invited to bring tomatoes from their gardens to share in the tasting. This will be a good way for everyone to check out and compare tomatoes, to help decide what varieties to plant next year--so the more varieties we get, the better.

2013 Tennessee Search for Excellence

Applications and instructions for the 2013 Search for Excellence Awards are posted on the Tennessee Master Gardener website at http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_awards.asp. Along with the application and instructions, you will see the score sheet that will be used this year, along with the instructions to the judges. The SFE Committee is aiming for complete transparency in the process used to choose the winners of the Tennessee Search for Excellence competition. We hope that seeing how the judges view an application will help applicants complete the application. We've also posted "How to Write An Impact Statement," which we feel will give guidance in this very important section of the application. The members of the SFE Committee are: Suzanne Allen, Chair; Patsy Boles, Advocacy Board Liaison; and, Nancy Christopherson. We are your advocates and are here to help you. Please contact any of us if you have questions.

A NOTE ON ROBERT'S RULES

As an organization such as ours grows and becomes more complex, new rules have to be adopted to keep order and brevity in our meetings. As new Master Gardeners come into the fold, and because usage of some rules is only occasional, it is wise that we remind ourselves of them from time to time.

Two such rules are:

1. Standing Rule #8. **Member Initiated Business at MAMG General Meetings**

"Contact the President, advise of the subject matter and ask to be put on the agenda. The speaker's recommendation should be presented in the form of a motion. The President will ask for a second to the motion and, once seconded, for discussion of the motion. A maximum of four minutes per speaker will be allowed with no one speaking twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. At the President's discretion, this time can be extended. At the end of the discussion, the President will repeat the motion and take a vote by general membership."

Additionally, Robert's Rules of Order says that if a resolution or a long/complicated motion is to be brought before the assembly, it should be in writing and given to the chairperson (usually the President) prior to being introduced.

2. Because the Executive Board is subordinate to the association, unless an executive session is convened (a rare happening to discuss a sensitive subject) any member in good standing may attend meetings of the board. However, to maintain order, if a member wishes to speak to the board or bring up some business, Board Standing Rule # 2 states;

Member Input at Board Meetings

"Contact the President, advise of the subject matter and request to be put on the agenda. Presentation to the Board should not exceed ten minutes.

Both of these rules came about as a result of members wanting to reduce the length of meetings and to help prevent chaotic business sessions.

If you have any questions regarding this please feel free to contact me.

~Jim Volgas, MG'99 Lifetime Member

Parliamentarian

2014 Master Gardener Applications

Know anyone who loves education, service and gardening? MAMG needs a few good interns for the 2014 Master Gardener Class! The application form is now available on our website. The application process will be particularly competitive this year since there will be only one class of interns. This class will meet Wednesday mornings at the Agricenter. Classes normally start the second week in January and run through the middle of April. Applications are accepted through July 31, 2013.

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

TOGG Says Thank You

The TOGG Committee would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who gave their time and effort to TOGG this year. Your dedication and hard work enabled TOGG to continue MAMG's mission of education and will help fund our projects next year.

Excerpts from an email from one of the TOGG garden owners:

..sooo, TaDaaa! I have been laying down most of the time since 5:00 p.m. yesterday. I didn't realize how much energy it took to visit and walk around the yard all day. Some 600 hundred people come through, do you believe that?

I was lying there last night and my mind was still spinning, re-living the whole thing. And a thought came to me, that this was the greatest day in my life! I know that must sound trite, but it is true. All the attention, compliments, connecting with people I have not seen in a while and with ones I have never met.

- I met Catherine Lewis's father and got to tell him how wonderfully she did on the 'Family Plot' interview.
- A neighbor from Walnut Grove and Wallace came down. I met her once while stealing her garbage, which was really cast-off Iris. It turns out she went to my High School in Little Rock, only 20 years earlier than I did.
- A man I don't know asked how Emma Rhea and Little Bit were (my dog children). He had read about them in the paper. I was on a high from the newspaper article Friday but Saturday topped that!
- A lady showed me a recording on her phone of an owl in her yard. The owl took off in flight and she filmed it like a National Geographic professional. We both enjoyed it, she was happy to show me and I was happy to see it.

I thought about the news article that mentioned my Aunt Dee who taught me about flowers and about playing dolls under a Redbud tree. My sister in Little Rock liked reading that, it brought back memories. I think a garden is full of memories, as much as a house is. Many people spoke Saturday of the old plants of their grandmother: hydrangeas, roses and iris; and told me of their memories. What a joy it was to connect like that in such a positive way.

The TOGG committee could not have done a better job; everything was so organized and went off perfectly. I know they are lying around today too. Thank you to everyone who worked in my yard and on the day of the event. I hope it was a pleasant experience for you.

- Soil Sister Mary (Mary Heim)

PAR Shelby Farms

The PAR garden at Shelby Farms is identified by two “MAMG” signs. We have water hoses on site but need volunteers to bring garden rakes, hoes, buckets for the fertilizer, and drinking water. As you know, shade and chairs/benches are non-existent at Shelby PAR.

Initial volunteer days are Wednesdays and Saturdays starting at 8am. Feel free to work other days or hours depending on your availability. I'll try to keep everyone updated on the status of the garden and things that need to be accomplished in the weeks ahead. Suggestions are encouraged. Contact Bob Hathaway.

Donations & Honorariums

MAMG sincerely thanks Patree Ruggieri who made a contribution to PAR CVG.

PAR Collierville Victory Garden



PAR Victory Garden in Collierville has already harvested almost 600 pounds of fresh produce this year! Recent harvests include cucumber, onions, squash, bell peppers, potatoes, cabbages, garlic and corn. Zinnia beds have they first blooms.

The garden is on a regular Monday afternoon work schedule 4:30 until 6pm. Everyone is welcome. You must sign the liability release form before you can work in the garden. Contact Carl Wayne Hardeman MG'05.



PAR Davies

PAR Davies has harvested more than 500 pounds of cucumbers, green beans, squash, peppers (bell, serrano, jalapeño, shishito, banana), tomatoes, onions, eggplant, garlic, potatoes and basil this year. They're planted squash, blackberries, Minnesota Midget and regular-sized cantaloupes, watermelon, an especially prolific cucumber (Camilla F1 Hybrid), and two varieties of zucchini (Cavilli and Partenon), among other produce.

In June, PAR Davies hosted a group of ten children for a tour. The children enjoyed learning about how food is grown and got to taste carrots right out of the garden! Please contact Dianne Parks, MG'11 for more information about volunteering at PAR Davies.



MAMG Member Meeting

June 13, 2013

Attendance 108 Members

CALL TO ORDER: The President called the meeting to order at 6:30. She introduced the 2013 MAMG Scholarship Winners Cason Joseph Fernimen and Nicholas Lane Hurdle, both will be attending UT Martin in the Fall. She also thanked our intern class for their “Share and Learn” presentation on “Plants from Our Intern Poster Project.”

PROGRAM: Vice-President Robert Hollingsworth introduced the speaker, Carl Wayne Hardeman “Soil, Sustenance, Sustainability & Some Fun Things to Grow and Do.”

UT EXTENSION UPDATE: Cathy Faust announced that the Memphis Area Bee Keeper Association meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7pm. She also thanked the TOGG committee for a phenomenal event and thanked the hosts and volunteers as well. Dr. Cooper met with Dr. Tim Cross and Dr. Robert Burns and reported that in 2012, more than 2,100 Master Gardeners contributed 153,286 hours of service to their communities. Their service was valued at \$2,976,814, with a return of \$9.88 on every dollar invested in UT Extension programs.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Deborah Pittman presented the Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, 2013 and the Statement of Financial Income and Expense May 2013. Total Income YTD 2013 is \$ 28,352.18 and Total Expense YTD 2013 is \$13,544.69

OLD BUSINESS:

Jean Ward- Jones presented the minutes and recommendation of the Absentee Voting Committee. The Recommendation reads “The Absentee Voting Committee recommends that no change be made to the By-laws to allow absentee voting. However, if the Board determines that the membership should be allowed to vote on the issue, the Absentee Voting Process described in these minutes should be applied.” Suzanne Allen made the motion to change the recommendation to read “Should we have absentee voting yes or no” the motion was seconded. After discussion the motion was rescinded. Suzanne Allen made a second motion “That the membership vote to accept or reject the committee recommendation – ‘The Absentee Voting Committee recommends that no change be made to the By-laws to allow absentee voting.’” There was discussion but it was determined that a quorum no longer existed and other than announcements no further business was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS:

An AgriMignon was presented to Linda Overton Philips for her dedication to our Intern Mentor program through the years. Thank you Linda!

Suggestion Box: *"If the AgriMignon awards are intended to continue year to year, the membership should be allowed to vote on whether or not this program should continue."* The President would appreciate the member who submitted this to give her more clarity about the suggestion.

MEETING ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 8:02.

NEXT MEMBER MEETING: July 18, 2013

Share and Learn: 1.0 CEU; Speaker 1.0 CEU; Business meeting: .5 ADM



Reminder

Hours earned January 1 through June 30 must be reported by August 1 to count for current year certification.



Intern Graduation

The 2013 Intern Graduation will be August 29 at the Dixon. As always, food donations receive 1 hour credit and anyone working will receive credit for those hours they work. Remember graduation is not open to our general membership, so if you want to attend graduation, you must be working it. It's always fun and a great way to see our brand new members!

Congratulations!

Scholarships of \$1,000 have been awarded to Cason Fernimen and Nicholas Hurdle of Collierville High School. Both plan to pursue educations in agriculture-related fields at UT Martin.



Just when you're beginning to think pretty well of people, you run across somebody who puts sugar on sliced tomatoes.

Will Cuppy

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Executive Committee 2013

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Jean Ward-Jones, MG'02

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Parliamentarian

Jim Volgas, MG'99



Memphis Area Master Gardeners

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.

Please contact the newsletter committee with your articles, ideas and suggestions:

E-mail: MAMG.newsletter@gmail.com

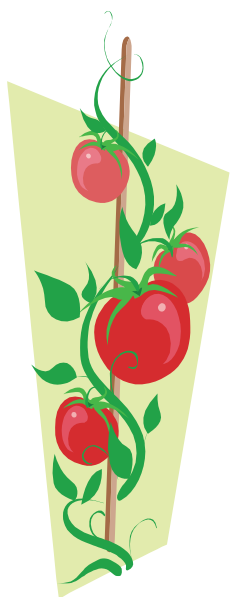
Master Gardener Website & Blog:

<http://memphisareamastergardeners.org>

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

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July Member Meeting

Carl Wayne Hardeman &
Bill Colvard

"Growing Tomatoes"

Thursday, July 18, 2013

6:30pm

Share and Learn

"Where Have All the Tur-
tles Gone?"

Genie Ashworth, MG'02

5:15pm

Agricenter, Wing C

Banquet Room



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

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

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