



# diggin' it!



All the Dirt from the Master Gardeners of Greater Memphis Area

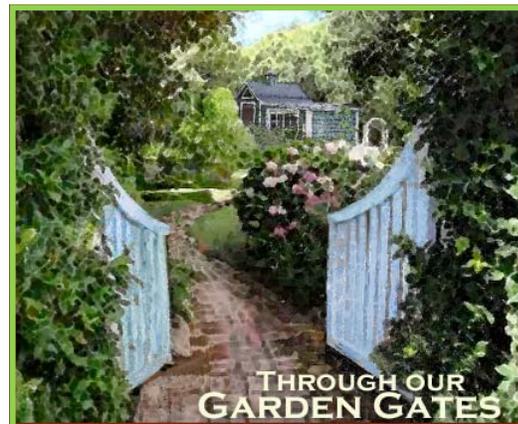
Volume 15 Number 6

June 2012

## Through Our Garden Gates Is Just Days Away!

June 2nd, 9am to 4pm.

The third annual "Through Our Garden Gates" public garden tour is only a few days away! Please plan to come out and support your association. We have five gorgeous gardens to share and lots of gardening inspiration, whether you're into veggies or hydrangeas or organic gardening or just plain entertainment... we've got it all! What a better way to spend a Saturday! Stunning photo notecards capturing the beauty of each garden will be available for purchase in packs of three. A limited number of TOGG posters will also be for sale. The weather is supposed to cooperate and we have six really interesting speakers and a beautiful gathering spot for a light breakfast or lunch or afternoon tea at Davies Garden. Come see the gardens people will be talking about all year! Full details can be found on our MAMG website.



### Featured Gardens

**Rieman Garden** Thirty years in the making, Tom's Bartlett garden has evolved to fit the changing needs of a growing family -- from a neighborhood playground to a shady Zen retreat.

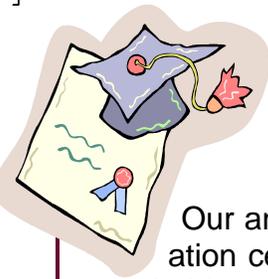
**Ward-Jones Garden** Jean has beautifully sewn together a variety of shapes, textures and sizes with threads of humor and surprise. Slopes, paths and a wide variety of flora and fauna grace the property.

**Krekelberg Garden** Living on 3 acres in the Bartlett woods, the Krekelbergs have butterfly, bee and bird gardens, ornamental beds, a crepe myrtle alee, wildflower meadow and the newest addition, a greenhouse.

**Plant-A-Row Davies Manor Plantation** Located on the grounds of the Davies Manor Plantation, Davies PAR is solely organic, has both demonstration and production beds, and includes an edible garden.

**Zaner Garden** Ann and Jim, both Master Gardeners, boast rarely seen perennials and more than 85 varieties of hydrangeas on their pie-shaped lot. The pergola, outdoor fireplace and food prep area make for a great spot to kick back and relax with guests.

Wear your Master Gardener name badge and pay just \$5 to see all the gardens!



## Class of 2012 Graduation

Our annual Master Gardener graduation ceremony and reception will be held at the Memphis Botanic Garden on Thursday, August 23rd, at 6:00 p.m. HELP! We need Master Gardeners to contribute food and/or wine, help in the kitchen, decorate tables, set-up and clean-up and be greeters and servers. You will have as much fun as the 2012 graduates and earn MG hours while you are doing it. Sign-up sheets will be at the June MAMG meeting and in the Master Gardener room at the Extension office after the June meeting. Contact Betty Nolan, chairperson.

## Safety City

Four members of our Youth Education Committee, Jane Carter, Carolyn Jones, Susie O'Donnell, and Michele Yelen are doing a day for Safety City at the Germantown Church of Christ on June 15th. The theme is "Safety in the Yard and Garden," and will cover water, garden and yard hazards for 124 children broken into 6 groups. The MGs will have lots of hands on items and some give-aways too.



## Thanks So Much

Thank You to these generous donors:

- Patsy Courtright to Youth Plant Camp;
- Sharon Lusk to Recycle Right ;
- The Lucy Garden Club made a presentation as a thank you for Tom Mashour's Speaking Presentation;
- Community Foundation of Greater Memphis donated a \$400 grant which was recommended by Mary Ellen Vaughan.

## What it means to be a Master Gardener

For me, becoming a MAMG was a delightful surprise after my "retirement". I have learned so much from other MG's and can sometimes answer intelligently when a neighbor or friend asks a gardening question. If I don't know the answer, which is often, I know how to find out. Growing up on a farm, I am well acquainted with hard work and have always enjoyed watching things grow. Now I walk around my garden and admire the plants that my MG friends have shared with me. There's Donna's "Little Honey", George's Beautyberry, Byron's Zinnias and Larkspurs, Marcia's hardy Hibiscus, Cornelia's "Donkey's Tail", Jean's concrete leaf and ornamental pepper, Barbara's seeds, Catherine's Becky Daisies, Betty's surprise lilies... not to mention Mary Lou's strawberry preserves and Genie's "Garden" sign.

Being a MG means doing what I enjoy with others who enjoy the same things. I have made a lot of new friends and had loads of fun. Who else would understand when I shout "Wow! Look at this! This is beautiful!" and be talking about black, rich composted soil made from my oak leaves and finding a 10" earthworm? I'm constantly amazed at new life and reminded of the verse "...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The best part for me is sitting with a MG friend in the cool shade, sipping on a glass of peach tea or lemonade, and talking about our plants, new ideas and even deeper issues of life. As a MAMG I have been called a Director, Secretary and Mentor for the first time in my life. I enjoy volunteering for all of our events and supporting

our Association and the hard work of the officers and committees. It's not about earning hours, but doing what you love!



By Patsy Courtright,  
MG'08

## Plant a Row

The Collierville Victory Garden picked Korean cabbages, garlic, squash, cucumbers and corn last month bringing their total YTD harvest to 1,712 pounds. In the coming weeks they will harvest



potatoes, squash, corn and cucumbers among other veggies.



The PAR Davies Plantation Garden has been busy this month! They have planted an Ayurveda garden, used red ladders as trellises,

and planted basil, corn, squash, cucumbers, eggplant, tomatoes, cantaloupes, peppers and purple hull peas. They are also experimenting with a new way to grow tomatoes.



## Plant Camp Needs Containers

Please save 18-ounce, tube-shaped, cardboard oatmeal containers and any chipboard boxes (like cereal boxes)—both will be used in Plant Camp projects.

*From Dr. Chris Cooper:*

I have received the Outstanding New Extension Worker Award for 2011 at the State Galaxy Conference in Murfreesboro, TN. I will also be receiving the Achievement Award (AA) which is awarded to agents with less than 10 years of service in Cooperative Extension Service who have exhibited excellence in the field of professional Extension. I am blessed, humbled and honored to receive these awards. I thank my co-workers and the Master Gardeners for their support! I share these awards with you!

## MAMG ScoreCard

<b>Volunteer Hours, 2011:</b> 25,136 Service Hours 6,588 CEUs	<b>PAR Davies:</b> 605 lbs. YTD
<b>PAR Poundage, 2011:</b> 8,542 Lbs. Donated (42% of TN total)	<b>Habitat for Humanity:</b> 5 Houses Landscaped 22 MGs 201 Volunteer Hours
<b>MAMG 2012:</b> 18 standing committees 22 projects 8 ad-hoc committees	<b>Garden Jumble:</b> 168 hours \$2,500 Revenue
<b>2012 Recertifications:</b> 10 Members Recertified as of April 1st	<b>Hotline:</b> 1,232 Hours
<b>Spring Fling</b> 246 Volunteers 2,114.5 Hours 2,100 Attendees	<b>Ask A Master Gardener:</b> 135 YTD Hours at Events Spring Fling Lichterman Plant Sale Feb Senior Seminar April Senior Seminar
131 MGs donated 1,343 plants \$14,500 in Revenue	Lowe's Garden Jumble
<b>TOGG:</b> 254.25 hours	<b>Website:</b> 1,018 Individual Visits 41% new visitors
<b>Speakers Bureau</b> May: Not available YTD: 40	<b>Facebook:</b> Monthly Reach: 2,088
<b>PAR CVG:</b> 1,712 lbs. total YTD	<b>May Meeting:</b> 119 Members

## Garden Jumble

What a wonderful Garden Jumble! Each year the turnout grows a bit more and supporters are now looking forward with great anticipation to its annual appearance. Highlighting the MAMG's many and very worthy contributions to the Memphis area is a super additional benefit. Most grateful to all MAMG members who so generously gave of their time, talent, and treasure to make it such a grand success!

Appreciatively,  
Suzanne Douglas



## A Letter from Our President



Your MAMG organization was well represented at the Southern Region Master Gardeners Conference in Natchez. As I listened in one of the sessions to MGs from other areas talk about their own activities, I was reminded how proud I am of our group. We do so many things in a big way--and we do them right!!! But I forced myself to remember there's always room for improvement so I listened carefully for ideas that might move us forward another notch. One thing that caught my attention was the idea of public forums. We schedule regular monthly sessions with Master Gardener speakers and invite the public. I understand we once had such a program--perhaps it's time to revive it. We have so many Master Gardener experts, we could easily fill such a calendar with good speakers. Another group talked about a display they have featuring the facade of the front of a house and another facade of the back of a house--so you can move from one area to another--in the back yard you find a rain barrel, a dog house with a living roof, and even a bog garden. Sounds like a great educational tool. Certainly warrants a phone call and gathering of information.

Did you get your recertification email/snail mail report? If you did not, please email Suzanne Allen. It's important that we identify any little glitches we have in the programming right now because when you get your next report, you'll be facing a deadline for getting your hours reported--and helping you meet your deadline is what this entire exercise is all about. Many thanks to Suzanne for a lot of time and effort to deliver these reports--and thanks, too, to Linda Weiss, Donna Stringer and the entire Recertification Team for helping make it all happen. We are already seeing an increase in hours reported--another side effect we hoped for.

As you read this newsletter, take just a minute and think about all the work that goes into it. It all starts with the gathering of information--a critical element--made easier or harder by those of us who are contributing the vital information. We are fortunate to have people with the skills to deliver such a professional newsletter--let's vow to make the job easier by meeting the deadlines in providing our own information. Jean Ward-Jones, MG'02

## Habitat for Humanity



MAMG completed their first round of landscaping for Habitat for Humanity houses. The team designed and planted a full landscaping plan for each of the five houses. The picture above is one of the houses they have landscaped. Way to go!

For more pictures of the Habitat build, please see our Facebook page!

**NOTE: The July member meeting will be held on July 19th instead of the 12th because of the Summer Celebration at UT Jackson Station.**

## Congratulations

Congrats to Master Gardener Elisa Marus, MG'00 Lifetime Member and her husband Ramon! Her yard was given the Yard of the Month by the Evergreen Gardening Club! Beautiful!



More Pics on Facebook!

## MAMG Member Meeting

May 10, 2012

Attendees: 119

President Jean Ward-Jones called the meeting to order at 6:30.

**Program:** Vice-president Anne Krekelberg introduced the speaker, Mike Carter, Carter Nursery, Jackson, TN, who spoke on “Water Features in the Garden”.

**Financial Report:** Jerry Berry presented the April Financial Report and explained that YTD expense details were shown on the back. He told the membership he would be glad to meet with anyone to discuss the financials.

**UT Extension Update:** The Vice-president presented the report because Dr. Chris Cooper was attending a conference in Murfreesboro where he will receive the Outstanding New Extension Worker Award for 2011 as well as the Achievement Award which is awarded to agents with less than 10 years of service in Cooperative Extension Service who have exhibited excellence in the field of professional Extension. Dr. Cooper had expressed that he was “blessed, humbled and honored” to receive the awards and sent his thanks to the MG's for your support. The update also included an Accountability Report: The total economic impact of Extension's statewide educational efforts in 2011 was \$537 million. For every \$1 in public funds invested in UT Extension programs, an estimated \$9.38 is returned to the people of Tennessee.

**Scorecard** The President reported total YTD numbers for PAR: CVG—1,199 lbs. and DAVIES—396 lbs. She urged members to check the volunteer schedule and help out in these gardens. She thanked Denny Garner, Robert Hathaway, Jeff Golladay and the volunteers who completed five builds for Habitat for Humanity.

**New Business: Scholarship Vote—Standing Rule #4—**Currently reads: “Four \$500 scholarships will be awarded to qualified high school seniors each year. **The Board recommends: “Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to qualified high school seniors each year. The number to be awarded will be dependent on the current financial condition of the association.”** Scholarship Chair Mary Wilder explained that this is necessary because \$500 was just not significant enough. Question: How many? Is there a limit? The way it is worded we could have a large number? ***The number to be awarded will be dependent on the current financial condition of the association as stated. The proposal was passed with a large majority.***

**Suggestion Box:** There were two suggestions, both asking us to remember our professional manners. ***We should wait until the meeting is over to talk on our cell phones or chat with one another.***

**Old Business:** The President reported that the Mississippi Master Gardener Conference in Natchez was well attended by MAMG. Our very own Carl Wayne Hardeman was one of the session leaders.

**Recertification Quarterly Reports:** The President thanked Suzanne Allen for going above and beyond in providing us with the programming effort and the actual delivery of the reports.

**New Business:** The President announced a new award coined from the language of flowers. She combined the plant, Agrimony, representing thankfulness with the plant Mignonet representing worth. The award will be called an **AgriMignon**, to be presented for outstanding service and means “Thank you, Master Gardener, for the worthy thing you have done”. Suzanne Allen was awarded an AgriMignon.

**Announcements:** SURPRISE: The TOGG Committee, presented a cute TOGG skit, encouraging everyone to purchase prepackaged tickets (Happies) to attend and participate in TOGG. Lou Marshall won the drawing for purchasing a Happy. Thanks to Pam Caruso for Share and Learn on “Attracting Butterflies”. Thank you to Joyce Wilson and Barbara Sharp and everyone who brought food. Another surprise – name drawn from those who brought food. Sheila Giest won. GINORMOUS GARDEN JUMBLE – get the details on the Announcements page on the back of the Agenda. Please read the Announcement page. The President still needs grant writers. Summer Celebration in Jackson will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July, July 12. Meeting adjourned at 8:01.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, June 14, 2012; 1 hour CEU for Speaker; 1 hour CEU for Share and Learn; 0.5 hour Admin for Business Meeting

## MAMG Collaboration with Brooks Museum

We have an exciting opportunity to collaborate with the Brooks Museum! They will present *The Brilliance of Tiffany: Lamps from the Neustadt Collection* from October 12, 2012 to January 13, 2013. This exhibition will include forty stunning examples of lighting in a wide array of colors, sizes, and decorative styles. On **October 25**, Master Gardeners will lead a workshop in which participants will make door decorations inspired by Tiffany lamps. We will split the proceeds of the workshop. Their education room has space for about 50 participants and the projected registration fee is \$45.

MAMG is responsible for: designing three door decorations; providing a supplies list and sources for each decoration; making up an example of each item and giving it to the Brooks for photography; mailing cards to our list and dropping cards and posters around town, and leading the groups in making the decorations.

The Brooks wants to send the event postcards out by the end of September. So we need to get busy! We need three designers. This can be you individually or you can team up with a buddy. The designers will be responsible for imagining the design, sourcing the materials, and making a prototype for photography. Ideally, these design teams would also be the workshop leaders. You get teaching (T) hours for this project! This event is a great opportunity for us to raise awareness of our organization, to have fun, and maybe even make a little money! Contact Suzanne Allen.



Photo: *Detail of Dragonfly Hanging Shade, 1900-1905; Tiffany Studios, New York; Leaded glass, bronze; Diam: 21.0 in. (53.34 cm); N.86.GL.8; The Neustadt Collection of Tiffany Glass, Long Island City, New York*

## A Note on Robert's Rules of Order

We have all attended a meeting where a subject is discussed and somewhere along the line it is decided to put the matter up for vote. The Chairperson asks for someone to make a motion, a member speaks up and says "I so move," it is seconded and voted on and nobody is real sure of what we just agreed to, least of all the secretary who is charged with documenting the action. Then after the fact, the motion is clarified/worded, sort of. Understanding and following simple parliamentary rules can result in a smoother running meeting and clearer actions.

A main motion, whereby a proposal is put before the assembly, is made and seconded. The chairperson should then restate the motion for the benefit of the Secretary and the members. Only then is the item open for debate or other action. Following debate, the chairman announces that we are about to vote on the motion and restates the motion verbatim or has the secretary read the motion as originally made.

**Note 1.** The motion is stated three times, by the maker of the motion then by the chair or secretary, both before putting up for debate and before voting. **Note 2.** In the case of a long or complex motion, it should be in writing and furnished to the chairman and secretary, preferably before the meeting. This is also a good practice when the motion comes from a committee, project team or the Executive Board. **Note 3.** The *maker of the motion owns the motion* up to the point where it is stated (presented) to the assembly has the sole authority to withdraw or amend it. **Note 4.** Once the chair presents the motion to *the assembly*, it now owns the motion and is free to debate it, amend it and or vote to withdraw it. **Note 5.** The maker of the motion is *always* called upon first to begin debate.

*By Jim Volgas, MG'99, Lifetime Member. Jim serves as ancillary support to the Board in the role of Parliamentarian. If you have any questions regarding this article please feel free to contact Jim Volgas.*

**"I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers." Claude Monet**

# Common Smoketree

Showy, tough, and compact, the Common Smoketree (*Cotinus coggygria*) is bound to catch your eye from late May through July. My grandson calls it the cotton candy tree. The unique smoke effect is caused by the 6 to 8 inch hairs (pubescence) on the flower stalks (pedicles), not the flowers. In fact, the 1/3 inch, five-petaled yellow flowers are rarely noticed.

Adaptable to various soils types, this drought tolerant and deer resistant tree thrives in locations with full sun and good drainage. Its resistance to most diseases is another asset. The Common Smoketree



makes a colorful impact when it's planted in masses, and can be used as an accent or focal point. The multi-stemmed upright form of this 12 to 15 foot tree can be rounded or open. Young trees have smooth brownish purple stems, while older trees develop light gray bark. The alternate, simple, bluish-green obovate leaves appear later than other leaves. The long 1.5-inch petioles are often the same length as the leaf which ranges from 1.5 to 3.5 inches. Fall foliage can range from medium yellow to reddish-purple.

Originally from Southern Europe to Eastern Asia, the Smoketree has flourished in U.S zones 5 to 8 since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Several cultivars, many with descriptive names like 'Black Velvet', 'Golden Spirit', and 'Royal Purple' have been developed from the Common Smoketree. The award winning 'Grace,' a hybrid of *C. coggygria* 'Velvet Cloak x *C. obovatus*, was developed in 1978. With massive pink pubescence and leaves that turn from red, to blue green, to reddish orange & yellow in the fall, 'Grace' reaches a height of 20 ft. The Smoketree should be at its best in June and can be seen at Dixon Gardens and the Memphis Botanic Garden.

*By Jan Castillo, MG'05*

## WEBSITE TIPS:

- Click on the Family Plot Logo—it takes you to the WKNO site and the TV program- watch at your convenience.
- The TMG log on the Public Home Page - Click and it takes you to the UT site.....directly to where you enter hours online.



## Gardens In Progress

Gardens in Progress will not be held in June. Look for GIP to be back in full swing in July!

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Genie Ashworth, MG'02

**Ancillary Support**

**Parliamentarian**

Jim Volgas, MG'99



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## 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.

### June Member Meeting

"Photographing Your Garden"

Blair Ball, Past President

Memphis Photography Club

Thursday, June 14, 2012

Agricenter International Wing C

Banquet Room

6:30pm

### Share and Learn

"Sedum and Groundcovers"

Jane Jordan, MG'10

Joanne Watson, MG'06

Agricenter Int'l, Building B

2nd Floor Conference Room

5pm-6pm



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

E-mail: [MAMG.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:MAMG.newsletter@gmail.com)

### Master Gardener Website & Blog:

<http://memphisareamastergardeners.org>

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

### Visit Our Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/MemphisAreaMasterGardeners>



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

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

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