

diggin' it!



All the Dirt from the Memphis Area Master Gardeners

Vol. 13, Number 7

Memphis Area Master Gardeners

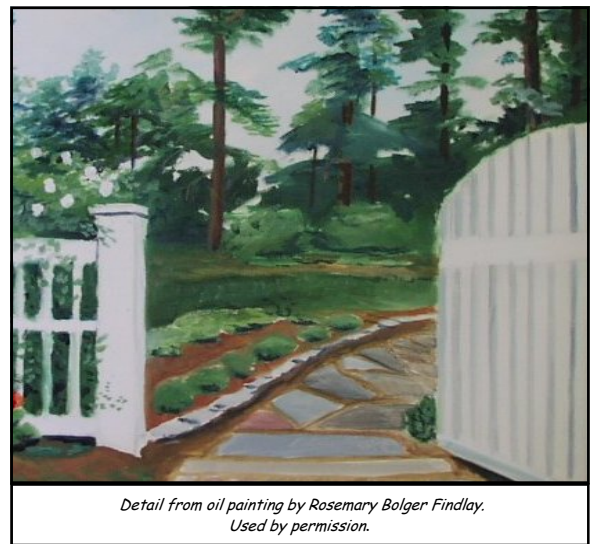
May 2010

"Through Our Garden Gates" — MAMG Public Garden Tour Draws Near

How do Master Gardeners meet the challenges in their own gardens? Saturday, June 5, 9am-4pm, Memphis Area Master Gardeners invite the public "Through Our Garden Gates" to eight gardens where Master Gardeners have solved drainage problems, fought weeds, built water features, selected plants for sun and shade, maximized small spaces, and made large spaces more intimate.

Garden hosts will be on-site at each garden throughout the day to answer visitors' questions and to provide plant lists. In addition, different gardens will feature presentations by experts on weed control, shady plants, tree care, and other topics.

Visitors can begin their tour at any of the gardens from East Memphis to Collierville. Maps are available at the Memphis Area Master Gardener website www.memphisareamastergardeners.org and will be available at each garden. The \$10 admission covers all eight gardens.



*Detail from oil painting by Rosemary Bolger Findlay.
Used by permission.*

Tour Details:

3835 Woodland Drive, Memphis. Sharon Kauertz, a charter member of Memphis Area Master Gardeners, eradicated pokeweed and bamboo to develop her shady garden with paths and a water garden. Sharon meets the challenges of dry shade and uses containers to take advantage of the few hours of direct sun on her large patio.

3828 Kearney Avenue, Memphis. Patsy Courtright's garden is an oasis on a small corner lot near University of Memphis. Patsy has found space for a shade garden, roses, trees, lawn, a kitchen garden, a bird sanctuary, and a pond with waterfall. Ken Zimmerman of Something Fishy Aquariums & Ponds will be on-site throughout the day.

7374 Abercrombie, Memphis. Mary Lange has a large corner lot with arbors, paths, a garden house with potting table, seating areas, and a lush assortment of plants. Stone mason Cary Smith will be on-site 10:00-2:00 to answer questions about the solutions he built for drainage issues in the Lange garden.

8872 Plantation Trail Cove, Cordova. Carolyn Gibson and Joan Vandiveer turned a drainage problem into a feature by installing a dry creek bed with an attractive bridge. Larry Tucker, past president of the Hosta Society, will be on hand 11:00-12:00 with advice about shade planting.

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

Springing Into Action

Memphis in Spring...a glorious time.

I usually jump-start the season by planting too early, against all warnings. This year it was easy to wait until our requisite

April 15th date. Our pre-Spring weather was beset with cold, wind, rain, and even snow.

But, when that magic day came, I was ready.

I planted pots and even added a new ground cover to go along with the other thirty I already had.

Goodness gracious, I love Spring.

Spring is also a time to evaluate what has happened this past year with MAMG and where we are headed.

Our Christmas banquet transported us with elegant table settings and vineyard education.

Ask-A-Master Gardener Clinics branched out to Lowes' locations. Spring Fling expanded its offerings

with 14 new vendors, spectacular children's activities, and an informative brochure. It was enormously successful in spite of a cold, rainy, windy weekend.

PAR picked up stakes and moved to Davies Plantation with prospects of a true demonstration garden on the horizon.

The Education Committee is spearheading a new project, *Through our Garden Gates*, garden tours at members' homes with speakers, clinics, and demonstrations, and open to the public. Membership contact information moved to our website and is managed independently by each member.

WKNO is partnering with us on some garden workshops, and we are starting a scholarship program for horticulture students.

We have much to be proud of.

We are an energetic and evolving organization and have taken our mission seriously to foster and teach sound horticulture information for the betterment of our community.

Good job, MAMG!

—Carol Watkins, MG-'06

Notice of Bylaws Change

The following matters have already been approved. However, membership will need to vote on the accompanying bylaw changes required to implement the matters.

The vote will be at the June meeting.

The first two changes deal with changing from a fiscal year running from September 1 through August 31 to a January to December calendar year.

The last change includes language allowing MAMG to provide scholarships.

The specific language changes will be:

Article IV - Meetings, Section 2 - Annual Meeting, change from

The regular meeting in July shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

to

The regular meeting in November shall be known as the annual meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may

arise.

Article V - Officers of the Association, Section 8 - Nominaton Procedure, Time of Elections, change from

The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members before the May meeting. This committee elects its own chair and prepares a slate of candidates for offices to be filled at the July meeting.

to

The Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members before the September meeting. This committee elects its own chair and prepares a slate of candidates for offices to be filled at the November meeting.

The following will be added to Article X, Section 2:

The organization may also, from time to time, award scholarships in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. Any such scholarship shall be fully compliant with both federal and state laws and regulations governing the granting of scholarships by a non profit organization.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Memphis Area Master Gardeners



MEETING MINUTES

Deborah LaChapelle-'07
Recording Secretary

President Carol Watkins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. She announced that Vice-President Genie Ashworth was in Haiti doing volunteer work. Carol then introduced the speaker, Dale Skaggs, Director of Horticulture, for the Dixon Gallery and Gardens.

Dale spoke on boxwood and donated a book and two plants that were given away at the end of his presentation. Dale also announced that the Dixon is looking for new docents to give tours of the gardens and asked that anyone interested in doing this contact Norma Montesi to register for the training. At 7:50, Carol called the business meeting to order. Tom Mashour gave the

Treasurer's report.

Carol announced MAMG received notification our (501)(c)(3) application was approved.

Dr. Chris Cooper announced that he has been selected to attend a meeting of Extension Service agents in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cooper also announced that the June Public Tours Project "Through our Garden Gates" would be a CoRe project for this year. Volunteer sign-ups are now available.

Chris announced that PAR was going to need additional funds to set up the new demonstration garden at Davies Manor. Carol, Kay McAdams, and Tom Mashour discussed the details of what was needed and questions were taken from the floor. The motion was voted on and approved to approve \$4,000 for start-up costs at Davies Manor.

There are Share and Learn presentation opportunities available in August and November. Presenters receive 2 hours of teaching credit. Contact Jean Ward-Jones if interested.

Other announcements: Garden Jumble is set June 26th. Youth Plant Camp in June is accepting volunteer sign-ups. Volunteers will be limited to working no more than two days. Ask-a-Master Gardener Clinics are now available at the Collierville Victory Gardens the first and last Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 in June, July, and August. These are CoRe hours. Horticulture Magazine had an article on MAMG Plant-a-Row Project and Collierville Victory Gardens this month.

Thank you to all Spring Fling volunteers, especially Chairman Linda Taylor. There were 59 vendors, 14 new this year. Two hundred sixty eight Master Gardeners volunteered. The festival made a profit of over \$5,000 this year.

Carol adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

106 Members Attended

(Continued from page 1) - "Through Our Garden Gates"

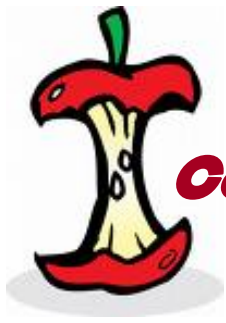
8765 Plantation Oaks Dr, Cordova. Bill Ferrell gardens in both shade and sun. Terraces, retaining walls, steps, and a dry creek bed create garden "rooms" in his steeply sloped backyard. Dr. Chris Cooper, Shelby County Extension Agent, will give presentations on weed control at 10:00 and 1:00.

1634 Dogwood Creek Drive, Germantown. LeAnn Byrum's sunny garden shows new homeowners they can do a lot with a yard in just three years. Paul Little of Little Hill Nurseries will be on hand 9:00-12:00 to answer questions about sedums and succulents. Kristin Lambertson, Interpretive Gardens Specialist at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, will give presentations at 2:00 and 3:00 on attracting wildlife.

3000 Green Fairway Cove North, Collierville. Rita Ruben gardens under a large canopy of trees. Master Gardener and certified arborist Jim Volgas will be at her garden 10:00-2:00 to answer questions and will give a presentation on pruning and tree care at 10:30 and 1:30.

The 4500-square-foot Collierville Victory Garden at Collierville Christian Church on 740 Gunnison Drive is operated by a team of volunteers including Master Gardeners. The garden produces nutritious vegetables for charity, grows flowers as companion plants, prepares plants for Habitat for Humanity, and teaches ecological gardening practices. Master Gardener Carl Wayne Hardeman and other volunteers will be on hand all day to answer questions.

—Catherine Lewis, MG-98



CoRe Corner

Ask A Master Gardener

The Lowes' clinics will be at the Lowes' Winchester location starting in May. There are still volunteer openings available.

Volunteer sign up sheets for the Collierville Victory Garden are now available in the Volunteer Opportunities Book at the Master Gardener's office. These will be held every other Monday evening for 6:30 to 8:30 during June, July, and August. These hours count as Teaching and CoRe.

Garden Jumble

It is nearly time for Garden Jumble. Set-up will be on Friday June 25th and the sale takes place on Saturday June 26th at the Agricenter in the Shelby Showplace Arena. Volunteers are needed for both days and sign-up sheets will be available at the May MAMG meeting. This year we will be accepting only GARDEN- or PLANT-related items (indoor or outdoor) but NOT household items or clothes. Plants are always a great hit so pot-up and label some now and keep adding to your collection of items to donate. Merchandise and plants can be brought to Shelby Showplace Arena on Friday June 25th from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Contact: Vicki Duggins.

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/Teaching hours.

Plant a Row

At Davies Plantation, the leaf compost for the PAR vegetable garden beds has been delivered and used to fill the raised beds and the deer fence has been built.

Friday team leader Bob Hathaway has spearheaded the building of a garden gate. Planting will start the first Friday in May!

Anyone who wants to come out and help is most welcome. We will be working Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. or (whenever we get tired and decide to call it a day.)

PAR has been approved by the Tennessee Master Gardeners as a demonstration garden. We will be receiving signs soon to post near the gardens.

PAR did beautifully during the recent rains. The black plastic and mulch put down between the raised beds did just as expected. NO MUD to trudge through.

Contact Kay McAdams if you would like to help.

Plant Camp - See feature article on Page 5.

Speakers' Bureau

Talk about good press! Master Gardener Karen Houdek was the featured speaker at April's WKNO Community Workshop. The April 13 workshop was full! Karen and the Master Gardeners were advertised in both print media and on the air.

This is part of the joint venture with WKNO discussed in this month's president's letter.

In May, Mary Elizabeth MacDonald will do a presentation to the Arlington Garden Club on Irises.

If you are giving a presentation or would like to sign up to be a member of the Speaker's Bureau, please contact Don Wear.

Special Projects - See feature article on cover.

The volunteer sign up sheets for the June 5th Public Garden Tour are now available in the Master Gardener's Office. In addition to CoRe, Administrative, Community, and Teaching hours are available. **We need a lot of volunteers!** Each of the eight gardens on display will need garden guides, labelers, prep teams, admissions and traffic control. The garden hosts will serve as team leaders for each garden and contact those volunteers who sign up to arrange times. The volunteer book shows, by garden, which positions are open and how the hours are counted. Promotional material will go out soon. Contact: Jean Ward-Jones if you can help.

Play with Your Food at Plant Camp

Summer is on its way and it is time for boys and girls ages 8 to 12 to sign up for Plant Camp AND for Master Gardeners to volunteer to help with this CoRe project.

The theme of the camp this year is "Plant it, Grow it, Eat it." About 30 campers will delve into the mysteries of where food originates and experiment with growing some themselves during a week filled with games, discussions, and hands on projects. On-site field trips offer a wonderful chance to explore the outdoors and the plants that sustain us. Campers will make some "take-home" projects and also receive a Plant Camp T-shirt.

Plant Camp is held at Agricenter International, near the Red Barn. It takes place outside under the trees unless the weather forces it indoors. This year's plant camp will run from Monday June 7 to Friday June 11. Hours for campers are 9am to Noon. Volunteers sign up for 5 hour slots, 8am to 1pm, to allow time to prepare before campers arrive and to put away at the end of the morning and, of course, to make sure every child has been picked up.

Because helping at Plant Camp has been so popular, the organizers ask that each MAMG volunteer sign up for a maximum of 2 days to allow more individuals a chance to take part this year. Volunteers can sign up at the next MAMG meeting at the Agricenter on Thursday May 13. Plant Camp is a CoRe project and hours earned may be counted as Extension, Community, or Teaching.

Children from a wide range of schools, as well as home schoolers, come to Plant Camp. Some return for several years. Campers get to be outside, and do things like dabble in the dirt, paint, use real tools to make craft projects, go to the Outdoor Classroom, and even meet a few friendly wild creatures. Snakes and honey bees have been



among the critters to visit Plant Camp in the past.

This summer, campers will plant and harvest edible plants, learn about other ways plants are used, and go on an adventure to see some of the edible plants that grow in our region. Campers should wear comfortable clothes and shoes, such as tennis shoes, for walking and to protect their feet.

Each day has a coordinator who explains to the volunteers what preparations are needed for that day. MAMG volunteers and coordinators set up, prepare activities and snacks, help children with the activities, and help clean up at the end of the morning. They are assisted by several teen volunteers, some of whom attended Plant Camp when they were younger.

Application forms for campers are already available from Tim Roberts at the Agricenter Website: <http://www.agricenter.org/fieldtrips.html> and from the Shelby County Extension Office at the Agricenter. The cost per child for the week is \$35. Applications are due by May 28 2010. Contact: Tim Roberts by [email](#) or call (901)757-7777, extension 7109.

—Alice Leslie, MG-09

MOTHER NATURE'S LITTLE HELPERS: You heard Plant A Row has moved to Davies Manor and they will need lots of news print (not slick inserts). Place your newspapers in plastic lawn/garbage bags and take to our new garden on Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Saturday between 8 & 10. Thanks for recycling your newspapers and helping make a great garden for PAR. Linda Phillips, MG-'99



With Gratitude...

MAMG is grateful for the following donations.

Donations were made to PAR in memory of Donna Olswing's father Elijah McCullough by Kay McAdams, Dr. & Mrs. Tony Pagliarulo and Dr. & Mrs. Sam Verzosa.

PAR also received a donation from Cole's Home Solutions in Millington of a 150 foot roll of concrete reinforcement wire to make additional tomato cages

Donations to the **Recycle Right Education Fund** were received: In memory of William T. "Cotton" Riddle, Linda Overton Phillis' Father from Joe G. Riddle and from The Grandview Garden Club in honor of Linda Overton Phillips.

Donations to MAMG are tax deductible.

DAVIES MANOR WORKDAY

PAR's New Home is also a community project that needs YOUR help. Come out and help make Davies Manor a gardening showplace! The next workday is May 11, 2010, 8:30am til 11:30am. Bring your tools and dress appropriately. Contact Judith Mills for more information.

NOTES

Advant Edge Sharpening (Laura Kinzer) will be at the 13 May meeting!

First come first serve!

Bring your garden tools, knives, scissors, lawn mower blades. No electric tools sharpened. **Tools must have identification (name and phone number).** Laura will sharpen before the meeting and during the meeting. Tools to be picked up after the meeting. Price: \$2-8 per tool.

MENTORS:

Now that classes are over please keep in touch with your interns. Please call them first of May and remind them of the Intern picnic Sat. May 8th at 5 and if they have called about coming and what they are bringing. Thanks for being a good mentor.

Linda Overton Phillips

Free Plastic Mulch

I work for the man that owns Memphis Pool and Supply and they have many used pool covers that have small leaks in them so they can not use them. Would you or anyone have a use for these to use in the garden, cut an x in them and plant through them or cover up with mulch. He just would like someone to use them instead of throwing them away. Forward this to as many people as possible, he has many and might even deliver them if someone wants enough of these. Please call me if any questions. **Thanks and hope to see you soon at the Collierville Victory Garden.**

Mary Elizabeth Iberg
"The Garden Girl"

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



Saturday,
May 15, 2010

GARDENS IN
PROGRESS
INFORMAL TOURS

Thank you to all of April's garden hosts.

May Gardens in Progress

will be from 9 to 1 on Saturday May 15. It will include the following gardens:

**Mary Wilder, 678 N. Idlewild,
Memphis, TN, 38107**

Mary tends both her own urban garden on a small mid-town lot, as well as a public garden on old railroad line property. Her garden is completely wooded--no lawn. It is based on an old plan developed by Tom Pellett and implemented by Mary with native plants and woodland plants designed to have points of interest throughout the year. It will be in deep shade for the tour. The public garden is the V&E Greenline Garden with full sun and raised beds; it's a registered Monarch waystation.

**Chris Miller, 707 S. Perkins,
Memphis, TN, 38117**

Chris' backyard borders Audubon Park and he has been building beds for the last four years. Many of the plants and shrubs were moved from his previous home in Shelby Forest. He also has a 12x12 greenhouse which houses his many tropical plants. There is no street parking, so park in the Women's Cancer Memorial area; his home is two houses south of the memorial garden.

**Caroline Nave, 401 Goodland Circle,
Memphis, TN, 38111**

Caroline's gardens celebrate both sun and shade with plantings that include roses and hostas in separate garden areas, linked by a terrace with a water garden. Ask about the lasagna beds she has developed.

**Robert Hollingsworth, 192 Dille Place,
Memphis, TN, 38111**

Robert's backyard has become an extension of his home and art collection. However, unlike walls that never move, his garden is in constant motion, always providing a continually changing palet of color, textures, shapes and sizes. It is his favorite place to be!

Visit the members' homepage of the the website at: http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/members/member/gip_apr-10_maps.pdf for maps.

MASTER GARDENERS' CEU CALENDAR

5 May (Wednesday): Noon *Munch and Learn: A Garden's Transitioning from Spring to Summer:* At the Dixon Gallery and Gardens. Retired Dixon horticulturist Ellen LeBlond will illustrate how the Dixon's cutting garden transitions from spring to summer. Free with Dixon admission. 901.761.5250. **CEU Hours**

8 May (Saturday): 10am The Market at Poplar Estate (6993 Poplar in Germantown) presents Paul Little, "*From Dog House to Bird Houses, Green Roofs for Your Home*". **CEU Hours**

8 May (Saturday): 2-3pm Family Gardening Series: *Grow Baby, Grow! Compost, fertilization, Organic Gardening.* Adults will have Garden Talk with Q & A with gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with A Play and Learn instructor. MBG. Members-Adults \$4, children \$2. Non-members-Adults \$8, Children \$4. Contact: 901.636.4126. **CEU Hours**

12 May (Wednesday): Noon Brown Bag Lunch and Learn- "*Roses Don't Have to be Difficult*" with Barbara Olive, president of the Memphis Rose Society. Members free, non-members \$5. Contact: 901.636.4128. No reservations necessary. **CEU Hours**

13 May (Thursday): 6-8:30pm *Floral Design with Kim Gardner of Gestures Events.* Hands on 101 floral design course is for students who have not taken a class with *Gestures* before or is needing a refresher course. Learn

some tricks of the trade and create a take home design. Supplies provided, please bring floral snips. MBG: Members \$55; non-members, \$65. Prepayment due by May 10. Contact: 901.636.4128. **CEU Hours**

14 May (Friday): 11:30am-2pm *Floral Design with Kim Gardner of Gestures Events.* Hands on 101 floral design course is for students who have not taken a class with *Gestures* before or is needing a refresher course. Learn some tricks of the trade and create a take home design. Supplies provided, please bring floral snips. MBG: Members \$55; non-members, \$65. Prepayment due by May 11. Contact: 901.636.4128. **CEU Hours**

17 May (Monday): 6:30pm Naturalist's Guide to the Mid South Summer Lecture Series, "*Plants with Stories to Tell*" with Carol Reese. Presented by Wolf River Conservancy & MBG. Free to WRC & MBG members. Non-Members \$4. Admission benefits environmental education programming of both organizations. Contact: 901.452.6500 or 901.636.4116 for more information. **CEU Hours**

22 May (Saturday): 2-3pm Family Gardening Series: "Pick, Pinch, or Pull-The first picks, deadheading and thinning" Adults will have Garden Talk with Q & A with gardening expert, while children participate in hands on learning and activities with A Play and Learn instructor. MBG. Members-Adults \$4, children \$2. Non-members-Adults \$8, Children \$4. Contact: 901.636.4126. **CEU Hours**

25 May (Tuesday): 7-8:30pm "*Pokeweed, Pesto, Elderberry Syrup and Pickled Nettles: Wild Food recipes with Glinda Watts*", AHG. Join Glinda and learn the ABC's of wild food preparation and ID of local wild edible plants. Demonstrations and tastings of each. MBG members \$40/ non-members \$50. Registration required by May 21. Contact: 901.636.4128. **CEU Hours**

29-30 May (Saturday & Sunday): 10:00am-4:00pm Herb Festival at Anthony's Herb Farm. 3712 Brighton-Clopton Road, Brighton, TN 38011. Multiple speakers including Carol Reese, UT Horticulture Specialists. 901.476-9481. **CEU Hours**

19 June and 26 June (Saturdays): 10:30 a.m. **Concrete Garden Sculpture Workshop:** Memphis sculptor Iris Harkavy will demonstrate how to create a piece of sculpture for your garden utilizing concrete. Participants will mold the pieces of art at the first session and will paint the new creations at the second session. at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens. \$50 (\$40 Dixon members). Limit 20. Reservations required. Call 761-5250. **CEU Hours**

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

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Executive Committee
2009/2010

President
Carol Watkins, 2006

Vice - President
Genie Ashworth, 2002

Secretary
Debbie LaChapelle, 2007

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 May meeting will be:

Thursday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

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

Topic: "Bogs, Ponds, and Water Garden Plants"
Speaker: Cason Callaway from Spectacular Plants
Location: AgriCenter Banquet Room, Wing C

Cason has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from UT-Knoxville. His wife, who will be accompanying him, has degree in agriculture from UT-Knoxville. Come prepared to buy some of the unique plants they will be bringing with them!



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

Carolyn Poore will be presenting "Container Gardening" for May's presentation. We have a few remaining openings for presenters. If you are interested in being a presenter you may contact Jean Ward-Jones. Volunteers receive Teaching Hours.

Thank you to Caroline Nave for her April presentation on irises.

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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Agricenter International
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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.

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