

MADISON COUNTY
2015
Master
Gardener

The Bridge to Knowledge
Volume 85, Issue 2



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photo from <http://hdwallpapers1080.net/winter-flowers-hd-wallpapers-download.html>

From The President

Dear Master Gardeners

We have started off the year with a great turnout at the Chipping of the Green. The Christmas trees had all been shredded by the time we arrived and it took less than two hours to get everything bagged and ready to give away....and the sun was shining!

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 5th at the First United Methodist church on Church Street in downtown Jackson. This venue is large enough to accommodate all of us and friends or relatives those who are graduating, may wish to invite. We will also be celebrating our Master Gardener 20 year anniversary at this meeting. BBQ and cole slaw will be provided and we ask each of you to bring a side or dessert.

The Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Winter School starts February 25th in Murfreesboro and The West Tennessee Lawn and Garden show is being held at the fairgrounds from February 27th to March 1st. You will have an opportunity to sign up to volunteer at it following the February 5th meeting. We are also in the process of planning the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show bus trip on Saturday, March 7th and there will be more information on cost and a sign-up sheet will be available at the meeting.

Remember: February 5th at First United Methodist Church, 200 S. Church Street, Jackson.

Meeting time: 6:30. There will be no speaker as this is our graduation meeting. It should be a good one!

Mary Nenarella, President

MIG CORNER

We have secured a larger location to hold our upcoming MG Awards Banquet in Feb. It is scheduled for Thursday Feb. 5th at 6:30 and will be held at The First United Methodist Church (downtown Jackson). They have plenty of room and we feel like this will be a great location.

The First United Methodist Church
200 S Church Street
Jackson, TN 28301

The Frances Halbrook Hensley Animal Shelter and Arboretum had a very successful fund raiser in December at the Lexington Country Club. \$1250.00 was donated for trees from individuals and corporations. We are off to a good start! To be eligible for many of the available grants, the arboretum needs to have a paved path wide enough for wheelchair access. Another fund raiser is planned for early summer specifically for path paving. It will be sponsored by the Harley Davidson riders in Henderson County who appreciate the freedom of the road, or path in this case. More news to come on that!

As a Master Gardener project we look forward to getting on the grounds to do an inventory of trees and lay out the path. However, it is still muddy and heavy equipment is still on the grounds. The interior building walls are being surfaced right now and the pet cages are being put in place. Everyone likes the large viewing window to the cat room. The facility is state of the art and beautifully positioned on the property. If you would like to drop in and take a look, the building is located on Mig Drive across from the Mig plant. Take Hwy 22 south of Lexington and turn into the South Industrial Park about 1 mile south of town

Talk of the Town

Celeste Luckey Scott February 2015

2015 Awards Banquet

With large graduating and intern classes, the 20th Anniversary of MCMG, and the 50th Anniversary of David and Carol Sams, we truly have a full slate and much to celebrate at this year's Awards Banquet. Sadly, I will be unable to attend, due to a Scholarship Trip that I received through work. I will be touring Value-Added Farms throughout the great state of TN! This year we have 12 members receiving the Gold Leaf 100 hours service award, 8 receiving VIP 3 year service recognition, 9 receiving the 5 year service pin, and 3 receiving the Lifetime Achievement status. I would like to congratulate each of you in advance on your accomplishments that will be recognized that night. This year's "MG of the year award" will also be kept secret and presented that evening! This year's graduates are:

Jack Baudo	Mary Jenkins	Joanna Priester
Carolyn Ewing	Robert Jenkins	Mitzi Richardson
Glenn Fesmire	Sandra Kelly	Lesia Rushing
Sandra Gibson	Debbie Morris	Denise Stuart
Laurie Green	Camille Mussenden	Cari Phillips
Diane Griffin	Celeste Pope	Becky Wilson

We would like to invite the graduates and others being recognized to bring a guest to help them celebrate this occasion. We would also like to invite any of the Charter Members and a guest to attend. I do not have contact information for all and some are no longer active in the group, but if you have a way to contact them, please let them know.

Charter Members: Carol Dix, Georgia Morehead, Addie King, James Thomas, Anita Meyers, Jerry Newman, Joyce LaFont, Pat Jones, Betty Drough, Linda Knipp

MG Winter School

Winter School has been scheduled for February 26th and 27th and registration has begun. I would like to encourage any and all members who are interested in learning and socializing with other Master Gardeners from around the state to attend. The Board has agreed to give two scholarships to MCMG's who wish to attend this two day training. The scholarships will be awarded on a first come first serve basis. The only requirement is that the recipient bring that knowledge back and share it with other Master Gardeners by presenting it at a monthly meeting, or sharing it with our Interns at one of their classes. If you are interested, please contact me and we can discuss travel arrangements ect.. I will also be attending Winter School as an In-Service program and I will be signing up for most of the business courses so that you all can enjoy the fun gardening/plant/insect sessions!!

If you would like to attend but aren't interested in teaching classes when you come back, you may register yourself on the Master Gardener website's home page.

<https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/> If you volunteer to help with registration or serving meals ect. at the meeting, you can get 50% off of your registration fee.

Early registration is \$80 with a sign up deadline of Feb. 10th.

Earth Day Festival

Jodie Jacobs, with Keep Jackson Beautiful, has invited MCMG to participate in the upcoming Earth Day Festival. It will be held on April 25th at the Farmer's Market in Downtown Jackson. The day is full of events including a 5K run early that morning, a community wide yard sale, hazardous waste collection, regular vendors of the farmers market, and special booths set up to display any variety of recycled crafts as well as speakers. As you can probably tell, the theme of the day will be to Reuse and Recycle in an effort to improve the world around us. She has asked us to set up a booth from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. I think we could get very creative with this. We could display pictures of how we have repurposed items for practical or decorative use in our own gardens. We could even display some of those on site to help spark the imaginations of others. We need a volunteer to chair this event and organize others to help. Contact me if you are interested!

Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show Trip has been set for Saturday March 7th. We will be departing from the West TN Research and Education Center that morning and returning later that evening (Times TBA). The cost to each MG is \$20.00. Madison County Master Gardener account will cover the remaining cost of bus travel and admission to the event. I have heard from fellow MG's that this event is well worth the time. We currently have 33 people signed up for the trip and have room for 19 more. The sign-up sheet will be at the Feb. meeting for those of you who would like to add your name to the list. The deadline for MCMG to sign up will be Thursday Feb. 5th at the meeting. Hopefully we will be able to fill the bus with Madison County MG's. However, if the bus is not full, I will open it up to friends and family of MCMG's for 1 week. After this, if it is still not full, we will invite members of surrounding MG groups. It is a waste of resources to take a fun trip like this and not fill up every seat!! If you have already signed up, you may give your \$20 to our treasurer, Tammy Overby, at the meeting. Those signing up at the Feb. meeting should also pay Tammy that evening. Please do not stress over "meeting attendance for 2014." I have had several who were certain that they did not meet the requirements who were actually fine. As long as you are an active participating member, we will work through it! One of our goals as Master Gardeners is to educate ourselves and share that information with others, so let's work to make all of our members feel included in the group.

**International Master Gardener
Conference**
September 22-25, 2015
MID-AMERICA CENTER, COUNCIL
BLUFFS, IOWA, USA

New meeting place: It was obvious at our January meeting that we have outgrown the county facility. By midyear when we return to the "Experiment Station" we should all fully appreciate the space and close access to the station plantings which we have there.

December Travels: Our Florida trip with children and grandchildren to celebrate our anniversary a bit early went well but Carol and I both acquired colds from which we are only now recovering. These colds combined with frigid early January weather mean that my Thai Giant seed have only recently been planted and it is not yet clear how successful this planting will be. Last year a number of plants survived to be planted outdoors or distributed at our June meeting.

Spring Plant sale preparation: Twenty-eight people signed up to help Carol and I dig and pot plants for the spring plant sale. We appreciate every one of them even if we won't be able to use that many potters. By the time you read this we should have had the first potting session and have Lenten roses and maybe another species or two establishing themselves in our cold frames. Other species will follow as they emerge from dormancy and join the 100 pots of ferns and 50 hardy begonias already in the cold frames.

February banquet: 50 years ago January 31 Carol and I were married. 38 years ago we made the cultural leap from Seattle to Tennessee via Minnesota and Morocco. Here we found a home and a group who share our passion for gardening and who use their time and talents for the betterment of their community. The group celebrates 20 years as we celebrate 50. In honor of this occasion we will bring a large cake to the banquet. We hope that many of our master gardener friends will enjoy sharing this cake with us.

More February banquet: I have enough clivia plants for people with 100 hours of service in the last year to each have one if they want one. I will bring these plants to the banquet with me. Clivia are houseplants in Tennessee but are hardy enough to withstand a light frost and enjoy summers outdoors. My cultivar came from my father who grew it for many years. It makes orange clusters of flowers in May if it is kept in a dry, cool (30-50 degree) room overwinter and then is watered and fertilized in the spring.

Strawberry Plants: I still have strawberry plants available for those hardy individuals who are prepared to plant during the winter or early spring. The time to set them is now!

Do Now: We finally to approach spring. Flowering Lenten roses and various narcissus will join crocuses in the garden soon! I am planting seed of the slower growing transplants such as peppers and coleus. Cool season transplants of cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower etc. should be seeded and growing now. Use a heating mat under your seed to warm the soil and germinate the seed rapidly. In the absence of a heating mat one can set containers of seed over heating vents or place them in an insulated container (Styrofoam ice chest) containing hot water. Plant onion sets, spinach seed and English peas at the first opportunity. Soak the pea seed overnight before planting to promote rapid germination. Do not let seed dry out after soaking. I plant pre-germinated pea seed directly in the garden on ridges which dry more quickly during wet weather.

FROM JASON: I mentioned last week at the meeting that the spring trip would likely be to St. Louis and I was unsure of the dates. I saw last night on the Missouri Botanical Garden's web site that there will be a lantern festival at the gardens this summer May 23 - August 23 we will not want to miss. I saw it when it was there a few years back and it was great.

I am looking at the first or second weekend in June with the first weekend (June 4-6) being the most likely. That gives them about 10 days after opening to get the kinks worked out. When I led you all in 2011 we went that same weekend. That Thursday is the monthly meeting. I believe it was moved to the next week that year. So keep those dates in mind. Check out the link below on the festival.

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/special-exhibitions/lantern-festival.aspx>



The fourth annual Native Plant Symposium was created with both casual and experienced gardeners in mind. You will leave with practical tips and suggestions on landscape design and plant selection. The symposium features practical information and advice on how to create a “living landscape” that is attractive and healthy for both humans and the ecosystem. Learn about the many benefits of using native plants in a natural landscape. Find out how to attract butterflies and other desirable wildlife to your garden and to promote a

healthy environment.

For more information about speakers and topics and to register, go to <http://tennesseevalley.wildones.org/plant-natives-2015/plant-natives-2015-speakers-and-details/>

My Winter Tree



This Fall, having been inspired by Jason's bottle trees, I ordered a tree from Jon McGowan for my own yard. The tree was ready in late October and I picked it up and put it in my garage as I didn't have nearly enough bottles to cover the tree yet. Several family members were encouraged to think about buying some bottles for my tree for Christmas.

Thanksgiving came and went and I was busy with the inside decorating. But then I began to think about how I might use my bottle tree while I waited for the expected gifting of bottles at Christmas. The tree was moved from the garage and placed in the backyard. I took a few of the bottles I had on hand and scattered them on the tree. Then I used winterish, non-breakable, rain-proof decorations to create my winter yard tree. I have enjoyed seeing it from the window and my grandgirls thought it was cute.

I've decided to leave it dressed in winter attire for a little longer although I'm gradually adding bottles to it. And yes, I have been gifted with some lovely bottles though still don't have the 28 it will hold. So, my bottle tree got repurposed a little for now but I think it's pretty neat. What do you think?

Contributed by Tharon Kirk

We are also looking for home gardeners who often have excess produce, who would be willing to pass on that extra produce to people in need. We can use any garden, big or small! In conjunction with the seed library, we are developing a produce donation network called Jackson Harvest Share, which will connect local gardeners to relief organizations around the city. These organizations will use the produce to benefit the community in a variety of ways. As soon as all the details are all worked out, a spreadsheet will be developed that will provide a contact number/place/day/time where the produce can be delivered for each organization. Let us know if you'd be interested in occasionally donating produce through our program, or if you'd be interested in growing an extra row, plant, or pot for the community. We want to spread health and wellness from local produce all around the city, especially to those who don't always have access to it! We'd love to hear from you. Send us an email at jacksonharvestshare@gmail.com. Cari Phillips

CHIPPING OF THE GREEN 2015



A beautiful, cold but sunny day.



Peggy Allen climbing on the greens to push them out to make them easier to shovel up

MG Green Chippers



AMARYLLIS.....submitted by Carol Sams



While visiting friends in Memphis during the holidays, we decided to check out the amaryllis exhibit at the Dixon, which runs until March 1. We met Dale Skaggs who told us where they got the species varieties shown and that they

plan to plant them outside for the spring/summer season then sell the bulbs at their fall sale. We learned so much about the bulb I thought it would make a great subject for a newsletter article.

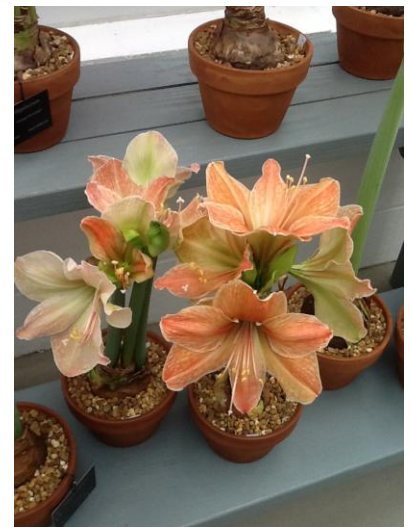
Amaryllis come from the family "amaryllidaceae", genus "hippeastrum" derived from the Greek hippe (horse) and aster(star) since the blooms resemble a horses head and the flowers have a star shape. This family also includes daffodils, surprise lilies, and tuberoses. They differ due to the botanical distinction of a different ovary location.



They have become popular since they are available in a variety of colors, forms, and sizes. Amaryllis are native to South America and have been bred for 300 years. Most cultivars today are developed in the Netherlands, South Africa, Peru and Israel. Only a few species from the wild (70 known) have been used to produce the hybrids we have today. The exhibit displayed 18 of the known species. The St. Joseph's lily, which we grow in our garden, was the first hybrid,

developed in 1799 by Arthur Johnson, an English watch maker.

One of the wild species of two we can easily purchase today, is the H.papillio, the butterfly amaryllis. We have been



successfully growing it in a pot for many years. We are also growing hybrids outside in our garden, planting them deep enough for winter protection. We do add some mulch also. They are summer bloomers ahead of the surprise lilies. We site them in a well drained area with strong light, feeding and watering them while they are actively growing.

For holiday blooming here are some tips for growing and caring of an amaryllis.

Keep potted amaryllis in a cool environment (60 degrees) for blooms to last.

Cut flower stalks when the last flower has faded.

Place pot in high light, warm location, water and fertilize to keep up foliage production. If you use a slow release fertilizer repeat every six weeks . With liquid fertilizer use each time you water, about once a week. Amaryllis like to be moderately dry before watering.



Move pot outdoors in the spring when all threats of frost have past. Continue watering and fertilizing. Begin drying down mid August, withholding water and fertilizer. Place in protected area away from the elements, such as a garage.



Keep pot in cool place until bulbs signal they are ready to grow by the emergence of green tips. If no green tips start to water by November. Repot the bulb in light, well draining soil containing peat moss (no pine bark). Leave two thirds of bulb neck above the soil level to prevent rot. Water thoroughly right after potting allowing to dry between watering. Place in warm sunny location to stimulate growth and strong stalks. When flowers appear move to a cooler location to extend bloom time. Bulbs can last for years and when well grown will multiply. Most amaryllis do not require a chilling period. The dry down period is the most critical for reblooming. For your information the Dixon will host two lectures on the Amaryllis, free with admission.
January 31 10:30. Jason Delaney, Missouri Botanical Garden bulb specialist Topic: The Colorful New World of Amaryllis
February 28 10:30 Dr. Meerow, published amaryllis expert from Miami Topic: Hippeastrum: The Perfect Bulb



Fun Garden Tours

July 25th. the Master Gardeners that live in Huntingdon decided to tour each others garden and have light refreshments. 7:30 started with Sharon Reiter's lovely garden and deck area. Then on to Hilda Wallace's beautiful garden with lots of shade and art.

Next was the full sun garden of Linda Reeves only 3 summers young. Last we toured the fabulous vegetable and landscape garden of Tommy and Paulette Crews.

The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show

Trip has been set for Saturday March 7th. We will be departing from the West TN Research and Education Center that morning and returning later that evening (Times TBA). The cost to each MG is \$20.00. Madison County Master Gardener account will cover the remaining cost of bus travel and admission to the event. I have heard from fellow MG's that this event is well worth the time. We currently have 30 people signed up for the trip and have room for 22 more. I will have the sign-up sheet at the Feb. meeting for those of you who would like to add your name to the list. The deadline for MCMG to sign up will be Thursday Feb. 5th at the meeting. Hopefully we will be able to fill the bus with Madison County MG's. However, if the bus is not full, I will open it up to friends and family of MCMG's for 1 week. After this, if it is still not full, we will invite members of surrounding MG groups. It is a waste of resources to take a fun trip like this and not fill up every seat!! If you have already signed up, you may give your \$20 to our treasurer, Tammy Overby, at the meeting. Please do not stress over "meeting attendance for 2014." As long as you are an active participating member, we will work through it! One of our goals as Master Gardeners is to educate ourselves and share that information with others, so let's work to make all of our members feel included in the group.

ComeUnity Cafe's urban garden manager Cari Phillips in partnership with Master Gardeners, and Library Director Dinah Harris, are starting a local Seed Sharing Library at the Jackson Madison County Public Library this Spring! This concept is catching on all around the country, with the closest one being in Nashville. The way it works is as simple as the concept of checking out a book. A large amount of seeds have been donated and will be organized into categories ranked from easiest to hardest to grow. A station will be set up in the library with available resources for people to check out along with their seeds. We'll have books, pamphlets, and instructional guides to help those who may be starting seeds for the first time. Anyone with a library card can "check out" seeds to use in their home gardens. The seeds obviously do not have to be returned, but we will teach and encourage others to save seeds from their harvest to give back to the library and the community. We will also offer a variety of classes taught by local professionals to help further educate others on the art of growing your own food. The seed library's goals are to encourage the age old traditions of passing down heirloom seeds, to help others grow their way out of hunger through vegetable gardening, and to facilitate community education in organic gardening, sustainability, and environmental stewardship.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to donate seeds or resources, please email us at jacksonseedlibrary@gmail.com.

Wanted!! Articles for the Newsletter

You can earn volunteer hours by writing about some garden you visited, some technique you tried which worked (or did not), or share your enthusiasm for some special plant, or condensing a gardening article you read.

Keep contributing. Keep reading. Keep sharing.

Please send your contributions to:

Liz Whitsitt lizv@tds.net

Pam Stanfield pamstanfield@gmail.com

February Meeting

THURSDAY
February 5th

Graduation

**The First United
Methodist Church**

**200 S Church Street
Jackson, TN 28301**

Board of Directors

Mary Nenarella, President
Wayne Gerler, 1st Vice President
Joan Hughes, 2nd Vice President
Darlene Tanner, Secretary
Tammy Overby, Treasurer

Board Members:
Elizabeth Edwards,
John Havranek,
Susan Luckey,
Bill Wyatt

Non-voting members :
Marilyn Taylor, webmaster,
Pam Stanfield, Newsletter
Liz Whitsitt, Newsletter

Master Gardener financial standing
information is available upon request.



**Check Out
UT Gardens Jackson
On Facebook!**

Lots of great info being shared there, and you
don't have to wait for a monthly newsletter!

The Bridge to Knowledge

The University of Tennessee Extension

Madison County

309-C North Parkway

Jackson, TN 38305

Phone 731-668-8543 Fax 731-668-8440

Email cscott52@utk.edu (Celeste Scott)