

MADISON COUNTY  
2015  
Master  
Gardener

The Bridge to Knowledge  
Volume 85, Issue 3



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photo from <http://www.seeyourinterest.com/2013/05/keukenhof-tulip-festival-march-21-to-may-20/>

## From The President

Dear Master Gardeners

Congratulations to all of our new graduates and all those honored at our February meeting, and a huge thank you to all who helped organize and decorate for the occasion.

We have a busy time ahead with the upcoming trip to Nashville Garden Show, Jason's Spring trip to St. Louis and our plant sale in May.

Soon we will even be able to plant our gardens; well English peas and other cold loving veggies at least.

Our next meeting will be held at the UT Administrative offices at 309 N Parkway at 6:30 March 5th and our speaker will be Dr. David Pitts, speaking on Hummingbird Nesting. See you there!

Mary Nenarella, President



What a great meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>!

I have a tremendous amount of respect for all our early members and Bill Wyatt, our founder. Their hard work, their strong commitment to the program, and their determination to see it grow and reach out to the surrounding area - - what a great legacy. As MCMG members, we are a part of that legacy as well. Just thinking about all the people MCMG has touched over the years – is truly humbling and exciting at the same time.

Just a gentle reminder: **It's time to pay your Membership Dues for 2015**

All MCMG members are asked to pay dues. Interns are the exception, they do not pay membership dues until after they graduate.

Membership Dues are **\$10 per person.**

You can pay with cash or by check. If you write a check, please make it payable to: MCMG.

If you want to mail your dues to me - - my address is listed in the new MCMG Directory.

If you're not sure if you've already paid or not, a list will be provided at the meeting.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you,

Tammy Overby

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

# Time to Start Thinking About the MG Plant Sale

Tharon Kirk

Our MG Plant Sale is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to the renovating/roofing work occurring at the UTREC we will be unable to have our sale there. We will return to the Madison County Agriculture Complex Auditorium at 309 N Parkway. The sale will be from 7:00 AM until noon. We will be receiving plants for the sale and setting up on Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8.

This change will require us to be very efficient in the use of space as we will have a smaller area for the sale. In order to make it possible for shoppers to be able to park near the sale, Master Gardeners are asked to park across the street at the Board of Education. We will also try to assist shoppers with parking by having a parking crew to direct traffic and keep up with where spaces have become available.

One of the key ways that you can help with the sale is by sharing the news that we will not be at UTREC this year but at the Extension Office on Parkway. We will have publicity about our location but hearing about the change from several sources will help prevent confusion. We will have flyers for you to distribute at the April meeting.

If you have not participated in the sale before (new MGs and Interns), this is our fundraiser for our local organization. These plants are ones that MGs have grown, nurtured, rooted, or dug from their own gardens to sell to the public. In this way, we seek to provide plants that we know will survive and thrive in W. Tennessee gardens. As perennials are emerging from the ground, it is a good time to dig up and divide plants that need to be divided or that are ready to share as “pass alongs”. Plants need some time after being dug to settle into pots, survive the shock and begin to grow and look really great. Please remember that your pots should arrive for the sale clean, neat, and weed-free. Each plant will also carry a label with the name of the plant and information about how to care for it. (See photo )



If you will let Mary Kay Havranek ([mkretired08@gmail.com](mailto:mkretired08@gmail.com) or 731-784-4848) know what plants and how many of each you are bringing, she will print labels for you. She has most of these plants already in her computer with the research done so all she has to do is print them off for you. The labels will be waiting when you deliver your plants. If you do not send her your list, you are responsible for doing your own plant labels. We will need printed labels put on the plants before we price them.

Remember to save your boxes. We will need lots of boxes. The boxes need to be sturdy but not very deep. You may drop off your boxes when you drop off your plants.

If you have a wagon or something similar that might be used to transport plants between the sale and cars, we would like to borrow it. Please put a label on it and have it here for us by 1:00 pm on Thursday, May 7. Please note that wagons will not be allowed inside the auditorium this year! Due to the small space we will have and the large crowd, it will be too dangerous to have people pulling wagons inside the building.

Sign-up sheets for the sale will be available at the April meeting. We will need adder teams, transporters, parking crew, holding area volunteers, greeters, and likely others. Sign-up sheets will have a description of what the job entails. If you cannot lift or don't like to add, please don't sign up for that particular job. In addition, we will need volunteers to help with set-up for the sale and clean-up after the sale, receiving plants for the sale, assisting with pricing, and putting plants in the proper location.

We will keep you posted with the information you need via email and or newsletter. If you have questions, please feel free to call or email Mary Kay Havranak (see above), Judy Rice ([trice@eplus.net](mailto:trice@eplus.net)) 731-695-1424), or Tharon Kirk ([tharonkirk@gmail.com](mailto:tharonkirk@gmail.com) or 731-660-4354).

Thanks for all you will do to help us have another successful plant sale. You are the BEST MGs!!



# Talk of the Town

Celeste Luckey Scott March 2015

Hello Master Gardeners,  
I hope everyone enjoyed the awards banquet last week and I look forward to hearing all about it! Just a few updates.

## Nashville Lawn & Garden Show

We have COMPLETELY filled the bus for our trip to Nashville. Thank you to everyone who has paid in advance, what a great help that has been to me! Here are a few “Trip Tips” to keep in mind. I will have bottled water and snacks available on the bus, and Lunch will be on your own at the Show. I have contacted the show organizer and he assured me that there were plenty of concession options for lunch. Please arrive early to load the bus if you have car sickness and prefer to sit near the front. Finally, come prepared to have fun and enjoy your friends as we try to shake off the winter blues!!

### **Itinerary:**

8:00 a.m. -Load Bus at West TN Research Center  
8:15 a.m.- Prompt Departure  
8:30 a.m.-Pick-up at Parkers Crossroads by the old “Cotton’s Restaruant” now “Patty’s”  
10:15 a.m.-Arrive at Lawn & Garden Show  
4:00 p.m.- Load Bus for Departure  
5:30 p.m.- Drop Off at Parkers Crossroads  
6:00 p.m.-Arrive at West TN Research Center!!



## Volunteer Opportunity

I am seeking volunteers to answer the phones at the Extension Office once a month during our regular staff meeting. The dates and times are listed below. Please let me know if you would like to help at one of these times. The hours will be counted as community service. They generally last about 1.5-2 hr.

February 25 - 10:30

March 25 - 10:30

April 22 - 10:30

May 27 - 10:30

June 24 - 10:30

July 22 - 10:30

August 26 - 10:30

September 23 - 10:30

October 28 - 10:30

November 18 - 10:30

December 11- 10:30

## **2015 Awards Banquet**

I would like to start by congratulating Bill & Frances Bobbitt on receiving the 2015 Master Gardener of the Year Award. They have been members of MCMG since 2009, and together have achieved over 300 service hours this past year. They have been involved with 10 different service projects in 2014, and are valuable assets to the MCMG Plant Sale. Thank you both for all you have done to advance MCMG in the Western

Region! Also, I have a few additions to make to the awards list. I failed to include a few members during the recognition ceremony at the awards banquet and would like to take this time to recognize them. Wayne Gerler received his Five year Pin this year, and Diane Griffin who just graduated also achieved the Gold Leaf Pin status by volunteering over 100 service hours. Congratulations to all who received awards/recognition!

<b>VIP 3 Year</b>	<b>Five Year</b>	<b>Gold Leaf</b>	<b>Lifetime</b>
Nancy Blair	Judy Baskin	Bill Bobbitt	Patsy Powell
Frankie Brown	Bill Bobbitt	Frances Bobbitt	Marilyn Taylor
June Creasy	Sherry Caldwell	Mary Kay Havranek	Liz Whitsitt
Diana Montemayor	Robert Caldwell	Joan Hughes	
Betsy Porter	Caroline Davis	Tharon Kirk	
Pam Roberts	Cathy Gilliam	Mary Nenarella	
LesLee Semler	Pamela Karr	Tammy Overby	
Pamela Stanfield	Helen Mullins	Judy Rice	
	David Tanner	Carol Sams	
	Wayne Gerler	David Sams	
		Barbara Tucker	
		Diane Griffin	

## **2015 Graduates**

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



**2015 Graduates**



**New Interns**



**3 Year VIPs**



**5 Year**



**Gold Leaf**



Lifetime Members - Liz Whitsitt, Patsy Powell, Marilyn Taylor (not pictured)



2015 Master Gardener of the Year Award - Bill & Frances Bobbitt

## Congratulations to all of our Master Gardeners!





### **New Interns**

Deborah Alexander	Jason Bunch	Jane Ann Lane
Ann Anderson	Vicki Bunch	Andrea Love
John Allen Anderson	Rose Byrum	Carol Luckey
Nancy Bendure	Jaida Cooke	Connie Rogers
Beckie Baumgardner	Maegan Dobbins	Leigh Sanders
Kathy Blankenship	Sandra Fleming	Robert Spellings
Susan Bosco	Barbara Hobock	Cindi Williams
Charles Mike Bowlan	Kim Jones	
Patti Bowlan	Robin King	

### **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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!

**-Last Call for MG Volunteers to chair and work this event! If we are going to participate in this City Wide Festival, we need someone to begin organizing IMMEDIATELY!!!**

### **Jackson Tree Board**

Fellow Master Gardener David Mathis has invited any MG who have an interest aboriculture to join the "Jackson Tree Board." They meet 6-8 times per year at Perkins Resturant at 11:30 a.m. Other special projects are also involved. If interested, please contact Jodi Jacobs at 731-425-8227 or David Mathis at 731-618-0898.



# Tipton County Lawn & Garden EXPO “Hats off to Gardening”



**FREE**  
*Admission*

Tipton County Master Gardeners  
Present the 8th Annual

## Lawn & Garden EXPO

*Hats Off to Gardening!*

**Saturday, April 11, 2015 9AM - 4PM**

**Brighton High School Gymnasium  
8045 Hwy 51 South, Brighton TN**

**Speakers, Vendors, Raffles, Soil Testing, Children's Area,  
Plant Sales, "Ask A Master Gardener" table, & much more!**

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

**For more information,  
contact Tom Mashour, Tipton Co.  
Master Gardener at (901) 337-0046**

The Tipton County Master Gardeners have invited us to attend their Lawn & Garden Expo! Wear your 'garden hats' and join us at this year's Lawn & Garden EXPO. Dynamic speakers have been engaged (Carol Reese; Eric Bridges & Wes Hopper; Chris Cooper), many exhibitors, demonstrations, door prizes, children's workshop, soil testing, plant sales, horticultural information, plus much more of interest.

For more information go to [www.tiptoncountymastergardeners.com](http://www.tiptoncountymastergardeners.com) or call 901-476-0231

**Shamrock 'N Walk 1.5K** This is a first time event hosted by Madison County Extension! This event is to promote the month of March as "Extension Month." All proceeds from the walk directly benefit local 4-H club members who wish to attend 4-H Camp this summer! You can choose to sponsor an individual or donate it to the club to be distributed among camp goers. The Walk is set for Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at noon and will begin here at the Madison County Extension Office (Ag Complex). They have also offered an opportunity for us to have a small booth set up that day displaying MCMG to the community.

Join us for the First

# Shamrock 'n' Walk 1.5K

**Celebrating UT / TSU Extension**

Saturday, March 14, 2015 Noon

Inclement Weather Date: April 4, 2015 Noon

At Madison County Agriculture Complex



**For more information**

Phone: 731-668-8543  
 Email: [aelizer@utk.edu](mailto:aelizer@utk.edu)  
 Facebook: <https://tiny.utk.edu/madisonfb>  
 Website: <https://tiny.utk.edu/madison>

**Location**

Madison County Agriculture Complex  
 309 N. Parkway  
 Jackson, TN 38305

**Entry Fee**

Through February 28 (adults).....\$10  
 March 1 – Event Day @ Site (adults).....\$15  
 Child (12 and under with adult).....\$5  
 Child in stroller.....FREE

**Registration**

Walk in or mail completed registration to:  
 UT/TSU Extension, 309 N. Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305  
 Make checks payable to: Madison County Extension

**Beneficiary**

Proceeds from the walk benefit 4-H Camp for a local club member or 4-H programs in Madison County. 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Tennessee. 4-H teaches youth life skills through hands-on education programming.

**Sponsored in part by**

- Farm Bureau of Madison County
- UT / TSU Extension – Madison County



Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_  
 First \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gender: Male  Female   
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Method of Payment: Cash  Check  Money Order   
 Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I am sponsoring \_\_\_\_\_ to 4-H Camp.  
 I am sponsoring any child needing assistance to attend 4-H Camp.  
 I would like to support Madison County 4-H programs.

INCOMPLETE OR UNSIGNED ENTRY FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. In consideration of my entry being accept, I intended to be legally bound, and do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, waive and release all rights and claims for damages which may have or which may hereinafter accrue to me against UT/TSU Extension or any of the sponsoring organizations for the event upon which I am entering, any and all damages or injuries which may be sustained and suffered by me in connection with my association with entry or participation in the Shamrock 'n Walk as mentioned above. If I should suffer injury or illness, I authorize officials of the event to use their discretion to have me transported to a medical facility, and I take full responsibility for this action. I attest and certify that I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained for the completion of this event. I hereby grant full permission to any and all of the foregoing to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose. Bicycles, dogs, inline/roller skates or prohibited. I HAVE READ THE ABOVE RELEASE AND UNDERSTAND THAT I AM ENTERING THIS EVENT AT MY OWN RISK.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of Parent or Guardian for Child under 18: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet:** Carol and I found the combination of our golden anniversary and the MG 20 year anniversary/award banquet to be a wonderful occasion. The decorations and program seemed better than they have ever been. Thank you to all who helped make this event happen. Congratulations to the Bobbit's, our master gardeners of the year. This was a well- deserved honor!

**Clivia:** The clivia I brought to the banquet for distribution are shade plants which will take little if any frost. They prefer cool very dry winters and make spikes of orange flowers in the spring. I got this clone from my father's estate when he died in March of 2000 and divided a massive plant into 14 smaller plants last spring. Mine spend the summer outside. They may not flower until 2016.

**Plant sale plants:** I am looking forward to signs of growth in the apparently empty pots in my cold frames. There are between 200 and 300 plants there which are hopefully sleeping. I have put the lids back on the cold frames and will keep them closed until it gets considerably warmer unless the sun comes out in which case the frames will need to be opened.

It seems that while lenton roses do well if transplanted in the fall or the spring they do not like to be transplanted during the winter. I suspect that the soil is too cool at this time for new root growth even on plants where shoot growth occurs at very low temperatures such as lenton roses. They may look better when it finally warms up. My Thai giants are struggling badly. Only a few made it last year. Only a few are needed considering the size they grow to be.

**Weather:** What will survive the next storm? That depends on what we really get. Yesterday morning the weather channel said an inch of show Monday followed by 7 degrees Wednesday night. By last night they were at 100% chance of 5-8 inches of snow and 3 degrees Wed. This morning they say 25 degrees and freezing rain followed by 3 below zero. They obviously don't know any more than you or I know. Snow acts like a warm blanket and protects the plants when it is really cold. If we get any, that is. An ice storm on the other hand... I bet there isn't a quart of milk or loaf of bread left on a store shelf in West Tennessee tonight. This is why we mulched tender perennials heavily last fall as we do every fall! I have personally learned my lesson and will no longer be planting anything other than annuals in the ground unless it is hardy to zone 6! Yes, I know we are in zone 7 but the weather seems to no longer know it.

**Spring:** I have tomatoes, peppers and Swiss chard coming up in the sun room. They will be set into individual pots in two weeks and then the tomatoes and peppers will grow slowly for 2 months before being set into the garden. I have a new covered bed underway for the Swiss

chard. It is time to plant English peas. Well, maybe not this year... We had crocuses flowering with the lenton roses and the first daffodils for Valentine's Day. Will most of them freeze off again this year? They will if it gets as cold as it is forecast to get.

**Do now:** Plant English peas, spinach, onions and the other cool season seed and transplants as soon as we get a few warm days. Plant tomato and pepper seed for transplants immediately. Make final plans for the spring garden and purchase needed supplies. I, for example, just acquired a maximum-minimum recording thermometer for my 6 X 6 foot popup greenhouse.

David and I wish to thank all of the Master Gardeners who shared in our 50th celebration of our life's adventurous journey. It was truly memorable. We want to thank Joan Hughes for making such a beautiful setting for our cake. We also want to thank Mary Kay Havranek and Francis Bobbitt for graciously being our cake servers.

Jason's pussywillow bouquet was a very thoughtful gift some of which will end up somewhere on our property. We will treasure each one.

We look forward to spending many more fun filled years with the Master Gardener organization and all the lovely people associated with it. Thank You



The hummingbird stepping stone by John Havranek and the beautiful painted garden sign by Mary Nenarella will both have special places in our garden.



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](mailto:jacksonseedlibrary@gmail.com).

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](mailto:jacksonharvestshare@gmail.com). Cari Phillips



## Gardening as Therapy Workshop

April 1, 2015

9:00 a.m. – noon

Location: South Greenhouse classroom 122

Cost: \$5 (for parking)

Only 10 spaces available!



This workshop will explore therapeutic horticulture and learn how to reach out and impact individuals who have health issues or disabilities. Participants will gain an understanding of the differences between commonly misunderstood terms and learn how to adapt gardening for a variety of skill levels.

This training is made available to Master Gardeners and volunteers of the UT Gardens.

This workshop will provide you with hands activities along with classroom style instruction.

For more information contact:

Derrick Stowell, MS, CTRS

HGTV – UT Gardens Educator

[dstowell@utk.edu](mailto:dstowell@utk.edu)

865-974-7151



# 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

## March Meeting

**THURSDAY**  
**March 5th**

**Dr. David Pitts**  
**Hummingbird Nesting**

**The Extension Office**  
**309 N. Parkway**

**Please bring a dish to share**



**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)

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