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<http://www.bettyhallphotography.com/may-blooms-and-butterflies/native-plants-in-may/>

From The President

Well, Master Gardeners...I think maybe Spring has arrived and hopefully will stick around with these pleasant temperatures for a while. I planted corn today and my apple blossoms are beautiful so I am keeping my fingers crossed for no more frost.

We had a great time cleaning up the Day Lily beds at the Research Station. We weeded and mulched and were done in two hours! The beds at the UT Extension office look great too and are ready in time for early voting-Very good advertising for our upcoming plant sale at that location. The Liberty Park Clean- up project was a success as well; cleared, replanted, and mulched. It is amazing what can be accomplished when teams of hard working Master Gardeners get together!

There was a full house at the Garden Starter Station at the Library on April 6th and the Jackson Sun was there to cover the event so it looks like that program is off to a good start.

Remember, if you are interested, there is a Japanese Maple Tour at the home of Jody and Dana Walker, 155 Wakewood Drive, Ripley, TN . You can go anytime between 10 and 4 on either May 23rd or May 30th.

Our Spring Plant Sale is coming up on May 9th at the UT Extension Office auditorium. Since the auditorium will be full of all of the plants you all will be bringing in...our monthly meeting will be held on May 7th at the First United Methodist Church downtown. Our speaker will be our very own, Carol Reece.

See you there,
Mary Nenarella

Plant Sale Reminders

It is hard to believe that May is here! That means our MG Plant Sale is almost upon us. First, let me thank all of you that have been digging, potting, grooming, and readying plants for the plant sale whether you've been helping Jason, Dr. Sams, or tending plants from your own gardens. You are what makes the Plant Sale happen and we appreciate the work and time you give. It's shaping up to be a great day for MCMG!!

As always, there are a few reminders to help make this sale a success. Here is a list of **DO's** to remember:

1. Bring healthy plants.
2. Make sure that your pots are clean.
3. Remove any weeds or dead leaves
4. Save and bring boxes – sturdy boxes like the kind strawberries and other fruit are packed in
5. Wear your name tag every work day but especially on Plant Sale Day. (Name tags help us get to know one another when we are working)
6. Be friendly and helpful to our customers.
7. Be sure to **park across the street at the JMC Board of Education building on the day of the sale.** Thursday and Friday you may park at the extension parking lot.
8. Please notify Judy, Mary Kay or Tharon if for some reason you will not be able to work but signed up to work.
9. Send your plant list to Mary Kay prior to May 4th so she can have your labels ready. She will bring them to the MG meeting in May for you to pick up.
10. Come and work if assigned or buy plants and enjoy the contribution that MCMG makes to our community through the plant sale!



There are also just a few **DON'Ts** that you need to keep in mind as well. These include the following **DON'Ts**:

1. Do not leave your assigned post.
2. Do not shop while on duty.
3. Do not enter the Hold Area unless assigned to that job.
4. Do not use wagons inside the building.
5. Do not bring items for sale on Saturday. All items need to be delivered prior to 4 pm on Friday afternoon.
6. Do not bring pets or wagons into the Extension building.

We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful specimens that you are bringing for sale and to working with you. You are the best, Madison County Master Gardeners! It will be a wonderful day! See you there!



If You PLAN(t) It, They Will Come
A Story about No Child Left Inside

By: Jane Ann Lane

(Intern-Class of 2016)

The last week of March, we MG were contacted about taking on a new project. The project was to help landscape a newly built Outdoor Classroom, at Milan Elementary School. One of the administrators applied for a Lowe's Toolbox grant, www.ToolboxforEducation.com. The grant is for \$2000, but the resourcefulness of the Grant Manager, who sought out donations and free labor, stretched the grant to more than double.



Discarded railroad ties were hauled in from the arsenal. Mulch used was from pulverized tree clippings, donated by the city's public utilities. The City of Milan also recycled an old culvert, installed it, and built an earth levee walkway to the new classroom. They also turned unused spools into tables. Old discarded rocks were dumped off, at the site. Local maintenance crews were used to build benches, a stage, pergola, and split rail fence. Children built and painted bird houses.



Andrea Love and I decided that we could be the Project Coordinators for this community gift. On short notice, for the "Vine Cutting" Event, we extended a call for help to you fellow Master Gardeners, for manpower and plants. Weather was "iffy". We had no idea if we had any workers, except ourselves, and we had no idea how many plants we would have, and if we had any, what they would be.

To our amazement, on April 16th, our designated workday, the rain stopped, people showed up, and they brought plants by the arm loads! We used the discarded rocks in the landscaping. We worked hard all morning, and developed several casual, naturally flowing beds, around the classroom.

The "Vine Cutting" was held the next morning, April 17th. This is an on-going project for MCMG. There will be more work days. The organizers want a small vegetable garden, and a butterfly garden. I thank our Master Gardener Organization for the funds provided to allow us to help develop this site.

I ask you fellow members to encourage schools to apply for the LOWE'S Toolbox Grant, and build more Outdoor Classrooms. We do not want our children to have "Nature Deficit Disorder" and we need children who may have a desire to become a future Master Gardener! Check it out!

Thanks, Jane Ann Lane



Weeding of the Daylilly Beds

It took us exactly two hours on Tuesday, the morning of April 2nd to weed and mulch the beds.



The "weeders" were David Tanner,
Mary Kay Havranak,
Diane Griffin, Mary Nenarella and
Susan Bosco



THANK YOU!!

I want to thank everyone again for your generosity and thoughtfulness at the Master Gardener Meeting in April. I love the Thomas the Train Piggy Bank and couldn't believe the size of that cake. We ate on that thing for a solid week before we just had to give it up!! I cannot tell you how much we appreciate what you all have done for us. I will now be able to take full maternity leave without the added stress of not qualifying for Family and Medical Leave Insurance Coverage. The Lord has truly blessed us, and I could not ask for a better group of volunteers to work with. I will continue to be available to you and the community for several more weeks. So, if you have any burning questions, call my office RIGHT AWAY!! 731-668-8543

Intern Classes 2015

As the arrival date for the new addition to my little family gets closer, I seem to get busier not only at home but at work as well. In the coming weeks, I will be organizing this year's Master Gardener Intern training for Fall 2015. I would like to have everything scheduled and in place before I leave. This year I am going to restructure the courses a little bit and hopefully make them more interactive. I want to thank everyone who contributed their time last year in teaching and want to prepare you for that request again. Don't be surprised if we combine a few related topics into one session. I think this approach will ease the pressure on speakers to expound on 1 topic for 3 hours, and will also keep the students more engaged in learning. I know in the past the schedule has been alternated every other year between day and night classes. However, in order for us to reach a larger demographic and provide an

opportunity for those who are still in the workforce to participate, I will be holding them again in the evenings from 6pm-9pm. My goal is to attract as many interested gardeners as possible and make it as easy as possible for them to attend. With this in mind, we will only be having 1 meeting per week instead of 2 beginning in Mid-September and wrapping up the week before Thanksgiving. If you have any suggestions for NEW topics or speakers please let me know ASAP! I will be counting on each of YOU to spread the word and recruit while I am off with the baby. Let's keep enrollment and participation in our organization high!!

Fair Judge Training

Over the past year, several Master Gardeners have shown an interest in learning to be an effective Fair Judge. I feel this is a good time to hold another training course for those of you who have not already been through the training. We will cover a wide range of categories from Cut Flower, and General Horticulture, to Crop and Fruit/Vegetable entries. If you have already completed the training but don't feel confident in all the areas listed above, you are more than welcome to come and brush up on those topics. I want all of our judges to be knowledgeable in each area. If we need a Crops judge I want everyone to feel confident in their ability to fairly evaluate the entries. The training will be held on Thursday May 14th at 6pm at the Madison County Extension Office Conference Room. This room will hold about 15 people. The training will last about 1.5 hr. I will provide you with reference material and resources to take with you. If you are interested, please notify me and I will save you a seat!

Ramblings

David W. Sams May 2015

Plant Sale: The plant sale is almost upon us and I have to admit that it will be good to have it over. Carol and I will have our 600 plants for the sale but the effort of caring for them is exhausting even with the help we had planting them. We are likely to cut back on growing some of the more common things in the future. Meanwhile, making plantings in the fall and overwintering dormant plants in cold frames has been very successful and is something that we are likely to continue. If we are going to have significant numbers of plants for future sales we need more pots. We especially need full gallon pots and smaller pots in the 1 quart or 4-5 inch range. We have found that we can use plastic yogurt containers as well as the larger butter containers, cottage cheese containers and similar containers for planting if we drill drainage holes in their bottoms. Please save potential pots for us.

St. Louis Trip: Our last trip to the St. Louis Botanic Garden showed us that it is one of the very best gardens in the country. We are looking forward to another visit and also to traveling with so many friends.

Do now: Cool season plantings should be well underway now. Plant any remaining warm season plants and turn your attention to irrigation and pest control. Who knows which we will need first. The very best care one can give plants begins with frequent observation to detect problems before they become severe. Walk through your gardens and look at your plantings frequently!

Plant prices: When Carol and I arrived in Tennessee in the late 1970s we would purchase flats of bedding plants for the yard generally paying thirty-nine to forty-nine

cents a sixpack. Now one generally finds single plants for \$3-4 each. They are now in much larger pots but I assure you that my income hasn't gone up as much as bedding plants or a lot of other things have gone up!

Hosta people purchase plants at conventions, wash all the dirt off the roots, wrap them in plastic and mail the plants home in circular tubes. They are out of the soil for several days! One can stick a tomato sucker in moist ground with a fair chance of it growing. Many plants are tougher than one expects and gardeners can use this fact to their advantage.

Last year I found a pot of 3 tomato plants in early March with the plants growing almost against each other. I purchased the pot of plants, washed the soil from the roots and potted them separately. They continued growing almost without wilting which reduced my cost per plant by two thirds! This year I found 5 tomato plants in a pot and separated them with similar results. I also turned a potful of little basil plants into six pots of plants and three Thai giant plants in a single pot into 3 separate potted plants. I will be looking for similar opportunities in the future as well as other ways to stretch money a bit. Carol and I are also planning to plant more of the plants which we have previously given away in our own yard.

Docent: Saturday I will volunteer as a Docent for 2 hours at the Dixon Art Gallery and Gardens in Memphis. They have what I believe to be the best plant sale in Memphis at this time as well as some of the best gardens and I want to support them in what they are doing. I will let everyone know how that goes.

From Jason.....Check out this article below comparing Ground Ivy (Glechoma hederacea), Purple Dead Nettle (Lamium purpureum), and Henbit (Lamium amplexicaule).

<http://identifythatplant.com/three-easily-mixed-up-early-spring-plants/>

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.

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

**We have been invited to take part in the up-coming Eastern Region Master Gardener Day at the University of TN on May 30th 9 am-4:30 pm. Even though this event is promoted locally as an "Eastern Region Program," it is open to all Master Gardeners. Everyone is encouraged to bring friends, spouse, and prospective MG's to the day's event. The cost is \$25/person and registration is required by May 20th. Lunch will be included. There will be a series of talks to choose from throughout the day and 2 optional tours in the afternoon. For more information, feel free to contact me.
Celeste**

Volunteering for table centerpieces at the RIFA Soup Kitchen

I want to share some information with Master Gardeners who have never volunteered for the centerpieces on the tables at Regional Interfaith Association. I hope volunteers will consider adding this to their projects for Master Gardener hours. For those Master Gardeners who have experience with the Soup Kitchen - Thank You - and please continue to volunteer for this project.

RIFA is located at 133 Airways. There are TWELVE (12) tables that need to have something live placed in vases which are provided. This is done every MONDAY, every week of the year since the Soup Kitchen is open 365 days a year. The best time to bring the arrangements is between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Mondays. The last week's centerpieces are usually still on the table and will need to be thrown away. The remaining vases should be rinsed out or volunteers working in the kitchen can be asked to run the vases through the dish washer in the kitchen if things are not too busy. There is a Rubbermaid tub containing extra vases which often gets moved around, but should be able to be located if the Master Gardener asks around. If the vases on the tables have residue that will not clean up and is bad for the fresher flowers the tub with clean vases needs to be located. If you have any problems with anything, please give me a call at 423-1065 or 661-1132. I will be glad to bring dirty vases home for a major scrubbing if needed.

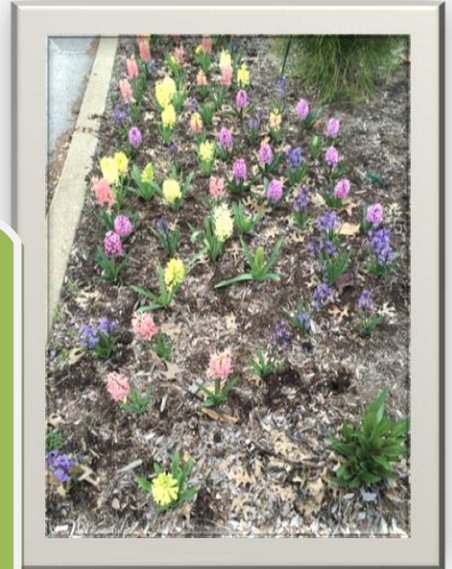
Many times only a single stem has adorned the tables and this is fine. Usually the single stem looks even better if it has leaves or a small branch of greenery is added. Some suggestions learned over the years from some of us who have done this for a while are: Remember that live includes lots of things including interesting branches from shrubs; on Sundays or early Monday mornings the Kroger stores floral departments regularly clear out flowers for bargain prices that have not sold; and many times altar flowers from Sunday morning church services do not have a use after the service is over. Some Master Gardeners may think of other creative ideas for finding flowers for use. If Master Gardeners have ideas for sources for flowers please share these ideas with other volunteers. Do not forget to give yourself hours for any running around you have had to do to find flowers. Things get easier in the summer when we can gather the arrangements from our own yards.

If you volunteer to do these centerpieces, you can be performing two service projects. When you arrive there are usually Soup Kitchen patrons drinking coffee and occasionally having a breakfast. Many of these people are or have been homeless or have had other problems that have left them ignored by society. They express how the public most of the time avoids eye contact or ignores them. By simply looking them in the face and greeting them you are giving them something greater than centerpieces!

Contributed by Kathy House, project coordinator for the RIFA centerpieces



Spring Blooms at
UT Experiment
Station



From Celeste:

Hey ya'll,

I had some extra time today and finally got a chance to create our very own Madison County Master Gardener Facebook page. It is a public page so anyone can find, and view it. In order to post your own comments just click on "Join." The purpose of this page is to share with the community all of the wonderful projects our group participates in and to share gardening information. Please use to post things from your own garden that you are particularly proud of, or disease/insect damage that you come across, as well as gardening events, and reliable resource information. I only ask that you not share the information of others. Example: Don't download the directory through the "files" tab. I have already added a lot of great group photos, project updates, and articles. Check it out and invite others to join as well. Happy Facebooking!!

P.S. The events calendar on the MCMG facebook page has been updated. Please let me know of any events that may need to be added in the future!

<http://madisoncountymg.org/>

[2015 International Master Gardener Conference](#)

Check out the web site for the [2015 International Master Gardener Conference!](#) We have nearly 70 speakers with 80 breakout sessions, 10 terrific tours from the foothills of the Rockies to the banks of the Mississippi, and 3 keynote speakers.

Subjects range from constructing containers of hypertufa and gardening in them, to using floral design as therapy; from hands-on sessions planting a living flower arrangement or constructing papercrete containers to a session on how plants think; and from gardening mistakes to avoid to growing and keeping Master Gardener volunteers. With three pre-conference tours, five day tours, six tracks in eight breakout rooms, and two post-conference tours, your hardest problem is to choose which to attend

2015 IMGCC - Hosted by:

[Iowa State University](#) & [University of Nebraska](#)

Extension Master Gardener Programs

September 22 - 25, 2015

[Mid-America Center](#)

Council Bluffs, IA

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

May Meeting

THURSDAY

May 7th

Carol Reese

First United
Methodist Church

200 S Church St,
Jackson, TN 38301

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

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