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image sourced from www.hoernursery.com

From The President

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I do hope your vegetable gardens are producing better than mine! It seems to be the year for garden pests from stink bugs to squirrels. I haven't managed to can one quart of tomatoes yet! I did, however, pick five gallons of grapes from one of my vines and the Muscadines are loaded! I see lots of jelly in my future.

Please remember to look at your email for the information on the upcoming Western Region Master Gardener Workshop. It is being held on October 1st here in Jackson at the WTREC in conjunction with Jason's fall plant sale and our October meeting. There are great workshop teachers like Chris Cooper and Carol Reese and our guest speaker, Linda Askey. She will speak at 1:30 as part of the workshop and do a different talk for our evening meeting. Your workshop registration must be received in Knoxville by September 21st.

Don't forget the Holly Springs Hummingbird Trip coming up this month. There were still a few bus seats left at the August meeting. Contact Barb Tucker if you haven't signed up yet.

Our next meeting will be held at the UT Research Center, (WTREC) on September 3rd at 6:30.

Take care out there in this heat!

Mary Nenarella
President
Madison County Master Gardeners

"Gardening is a long road, with many detours and way stations, and here we all are at one point or another. It's not a question of superior or inferior taste, merely a question of which detour we are on at the moment.

Getting there (as they say) is not important; the wandering about in the wilderness or in the olive groves or in the bayous is the whole point."

- Henry Mitchell, Gardening Is a Long Road, 1998

taken from Margaret Rucker's Facebook post

Mark your Calendar

Fall events at UT Jackson:

Landscape Review on Sept. 3

Pumpkin Field Day on Sept 24

Fall Plant Sale & Garden Lecture Series on Oct 1 (See details below)

Ramblings

This “Ramblings” must be written early as we leave for England and a tour of several English gardens with Jason, Andy and Troy Marden on August 10. Perhaps either Carol or I can report on English gardens at a later time.

August Meeting: Rita Venable showed a superb knowledge of Tennessee butterflies during her August 6 program. She has just published a book on Tennessee butterflies which is as well organized and comprehensive as any book that I have ever seen. Get a copy if you have any interest in or questions about Tennessee butterflies. The turnout for Ms. Venable filled the room at the experiment station leaving one to wonder where we will put additional people at the October meeting.

Weather: When have we had so many days above 90 degrees in a single summer? Our irrigation system has paid off this year and, in fact, has been considerably enlarged. We now have eight fully automated zones running off of two manifolds totaling nearly 30 sprinkler heads. We also have about the same number of zones which run off of hoses which we must turn on and off by hand. One of my next projects will be to automate these zones when it is cool enough for me to dig trenches for irrigation pipe and while our centipede grass is dormant. Even with this irrigation much of our yard would not have survived our England trip without Jason and Vicki Bunch volunteering to help water while we are gone. Thank you, both of you.

Up for adoption: I am going to continue putting plants up for adoption. This month features 9 crepe myrtles with red flowers and white flower edges. I think that the two-tone flowers are striking and purchased the original plant for Carol many years ago but do not remember its name. This crepe myrtle roots readily from cuttings taken at the right time which is a bit unusual. The parent plant is 15 feet tall in partial shade. I will put a photo on our Facebook site before the September meeting. Meanwhile, my 9 plants go to the first 9 people who ask for one. Since eighteen people signed up for one at the August meeting I will do a drawing before the September meeting and bring the plants labeled with their new owners names to this meeting. Can I root more cuttings after returning from England or will late August be too late in the season? I will try but they will not be ready to distribute until 2016 even if they grow. Others having unusual plants might think about propagating them for distribution to master gardeners or for our plant sales. Some think a greenhouse is necessary for plant propagation and are surprised to find that I have no greenhouse...

October Meeting: The October 1 master gardener meeting will not only include Jason’s fall plant sale but a half day workshop followed by two talks by one Linda Askey. The workshop will feature your choice of either of 2 sessions at each of three different times and has a \$20 fee. I intend to register early not knowing whether or not the sessions will fill up. Linda Askey is from the Birmingham area and is a former Garden Editor for Southern living magazine. She has the connections and experience to be a very knowledgeable horticulturalist. All of these events should make for a very full and worthwhile day. I feel that we are fortunate to be in Jackson with its extensive horticultural action and intend to make the most of it.

Thank you notes from Jason's interns:



August 2, 2015

Hunter Herrin
210 Holly Hill Ln
McKenzie, TN

Madison County Master Gardeners
Jackson, TN

Dear Madison County Master Gardeners,

My name is Hunter Herrin, and I am a senior at UT Knoxville majoring in Landscape Design. This summer I have been interning with Jason Reeves at the UT Gardens in Jackson. Jason has been absolutely wonderful, and the experience I gained from this internship will be invaluable to me in the future when I begin a career. I can now better identify plants and understand the practices to help these plants thrive. I also had the privilege of going on many trips and experiencing gardens and lectures from speakers at the top of their field. This has honestly been a once of a lifetime opportunity, and I owe every bit of thanks to you. Your generous funding has changed my life forever, giving me immeasurable knowledge and experience, and from the bottom of my heart I want to thank all of you. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you in person, and I also want to thank you for the kindness and love you showed me in St. Louis. I had an amazing time getting to know you, and I'm honestly going to miss you. You have all been too kind to me, and I pray that others get the opportunity to experience what I have experienced and get to know who I have gotten to know this summer. Your hard work has been inspiring to me as a member of a new generation of gardeners. I will work with everything within me to keep up all the hard work you put in, and make sure your hard work has a lasting impact. Thank you again for your support. It will never be forgotten.

Sincerely,
Hunter Herrin
UT Gardens Jackson Intern

Dear Madison County Master Gardeners,

I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work with you all the last two summers while working at the UT gardens. It has been a positive experience for me working and learning with all the ones participating in the preparations for the summer celebration and the trips to Knoxville last year and St. Louis this year. I have learned a great deal while working with Mr. Jason at the station and even more so on the perennial plant trips that would not have been possible without your support. My time and experience working with the UT gardens has helped me with my plant knowledge that I will be able to apply in my career as a Landscape Architect and contractor. I also value the friendships that I have gained over the last two summers and hope to see you all in the times to come.

Thanks so much,
Cody Fitts

August 4, 2015

Dear Madison County Master Gardeners,

I wanted to extend a special thank you to all of you! Without your support for my internship, I would not have had the opportunity to experience first hand the work and dedication that comes with having a garden.

Prior to working with Jason, I did not have much experience in my field of study. Therefore, working this summer taught me about many new plants, about using the right plants for the conditions you are working with, landscape design, the importance of knowing when to water and how much, and a lot about insistent weeds that are just a nuisance! That being said, this internship has also helped affirm my desire to work in public horticulture, and I know I can use what I learned this summer later in my life.

The highlights of my summer were definitely the trips that were made possible because of all of you. The St. Louis trip was incredibly fun and informative. While exploring the Missouri Botanical Garden, Jason was testing my knowledge on different plants. As much as I hate to admit it, I did not do great on the St. Louis trip at identifying plants. As I said before, this summer was the first I really started learning about my chosen profession. But that just increased my determination to do better! By the Baltimore trip, I had a much broader knowledge. As Jason quizzed the interns in various private gardens, I could tell my summer had been productive. I could see my improvement and felt proud of what I had accomplished. Like my internship this summer, the entire conference afforded me a fun, learning environment.

I also wanted to thank all of you for the warm welcome I received. It was such in inspiration to meet a group of adults that share my passion. I greatly enjoyed interacting and getting to know you!

I hope you will continue to support student internships at the UT Gardens! If future students have even half the experience I had, then they will be well off. This is an absolutely amazing and worthwhile program. Thank you again for your generosity and support!

Sincerely,



Sarah Miller
UT Gardens Intern

DAYLILY BABIES

Becky Wilson

I love daylilies and have a number of varieties in my garden. I try to keep them tidy and remove the previous day's blossoms every morning. Once they have finished blooming and the scapes turn brown, I remove them from the clump to make the bed look neater.



A few years ago as I was pulling scapes, I was surprised to see in one clump of "Hawaiian Swirls" that a few of the scapes had baby plants growing from some of the bracts. I was curious to know what this phenomenon was so of course I did what most people would do these days - went straight to Google! I found out these growths are called proliferations, and indeed they are little clones of the parent plant. They can develop roots and be planted as a means of propagation.

The baby plants should be allowed to develop on the scape as much as possible. As long as there is green showing on the scape up to the location of the prolif, it should continue to grow. Once it has 4 or 5 leaves it can be separated from the parent plant.

Cut the scape an inch or so above the proliferation and then about 2-3" below.



These can be put in water (adding a bit of growth hormone) so that the bottom of the proliferation is submerged. Change the water every couple of days and in 5 - 7 days white roots will begin to develop from the proliferation. Once it has 3 or 4 healthy roots, remove it from the water, carefully cut it off the scape and plant it in a good potting medium in a 4" pot. Keep the baby plant out of direct sun and keep soil moist and it will begin to take off.

The new plant can be planted in the garden after growing about a month in its pot. I like to keep the plants growing in a pot for at least two years before setting them out into the garden. I usually repot them into a larger container the second year. Depending on the variety of the daylily, it might bloom in its pot the second year.

Apparently certain varieties of daylilies are more prone to produce proliferations than others. My "Hawaiian Swirls" has produced up to seven prolifs from a single clump for about 4 years now. I have had two other varieties produce two or three each. Now I am not so hasty to remove spent scapes, for there could be babies waiting to grow. I have found this to be an enjoyable and inexpensive way to propagate daylilies



Are you a practical gardener ?

Even folks who think they are pretty level-headed have lapses in judgment. What about you? Do you recognize yourself in the tale of a gardener who buys on impulse then can't find a spot for the new greenery or in my story

of having too much vegetation that grows too well?

Experienced gardeners occasionally visit a local nursery or garden center or attend a plant sale at an event like the upcoming Fall Gardeners Festival on Tuesday, August 25 at the University of Tennessee Plateau Experiment

Station and come home with a new must-have plant they hadn't planned on purchasing. With luck, if that happens to you the impulse-purchase will find a vacant spot in your landscape that has the correct amount of sunlight, good soil fertility, the proper pH, and ample moisture. Without that good fortune you may find requirements of the greenery and any available site conditions are not the same.

You might be able to work around the problem. Growing in a container rather than in the ground may allow placement in adequate sunshine. If the mismatch involves environmental elements that can be changed quickly with ease and if dealing with only one or two specimens, improvements can usually be made with little difficulty prior to plant installation. Examples of easy fixes are changing inadequate soil conditions by adding organic content, increasing fertility and/or correcting drainage. However, there are no quick fixes for property with steep slopes, a high water table or topographical elements that create frost pockets. Nor can we control our general climate. Know the USDA plant hardiness zone associated with your zip code. Find that information using the interactive map at <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/InteractiveMap.aspx>. Buyers beware! Be sure to check the hardiness zone on plant tags when shopping for live goods. You may find perennial plants hardy in warmer zones than that of your area for sale in garden centers at big box stores. Crossville Master Gardeners hear complaints from retirees who have recently relocated to Tennessee and who assumed perennials sold in stores here would survive our cold season. These new residents are disappointed when they buy Zone 8 perennials that die like annuals during our first Zone 6 winter.

Years with plentiful rain make me realize I'm not as practical a gardener as I'd like to think I am. My landscape is designed for year-round beauty and to be wildlife friendly. In that sense it is a success. There are many trees, a few evergreens, some ornamental grasses, red Knockout roses and white ones from the Fairy rose family. The bird and butterfly meadow has oodles of wildflowers, a good habitat for insects. Annuals I grow are mostly species that reseed themselves. Seedlings from those pop up each spring. My gardens are predominantly the cottage-type. By that I mean each flower bed has a profusion of lush plantings growing close together. There are garden beds in sunny spots and woodland shade gardens at the base of trees, too. Most of the garden flowers are perennials which come back every year.

So, what's my problem? Why does this successful landscape make me a gardener who is not very practical? In short, it doesn't suit my lifestyle. I've got a classic case of too much to do and not enough time in which to do it. It's my nature to stay busy packing about 30 hours of activities into every 24-hour day. My green thumb and love of gardening work against me when rainfall is plentiful because everything on my property grows like crazy. Gardens that have a pleasant, full look under normal circumstances get over-crowded and wildly weedy when the weather stays warm and wet. Every spring and half way through the summer I'm dividing plants and begging friends and neighbors to take my extra plants to ease the crowding. A rainy summer keeps compounding the problem all season long. So do what I recommend (not what I do) - *Plan your landscape to match the maintenance level you can provide.*

Contributed by Sue Barnes (from C. Rae Hozer, Cumberland County) Master Gardener)



Western Region Master Gardener Workshop and WTREC Fall Plant Sale Jackson, TN, October 1st, 2015

hosted by the Madison County Master Gardeners

Schedule:

8:30 to 9:00 - Registration

8:50 to 9:00 - Welcome

9:00 to 9:50 - Workshop session 1

10:00 to 10:50 - Workshop session 2

11:00 to 11:50 - Workshop session 3

12:00 to 1:00 - Lunch and 'Great Garden Plants' by Jason Reeves (lunch for registered participants)

1:30 Guest speaker- Linda Askey 'What Is Your Garden Style?' (see descriptions below)

3:00 to 6:00 WTREC Fall plant sale

6:30 Potluck dinner and second presentation by Linda Askey- 'Bring Home a Little Wow'

(drinks by Madison Co. Master Gardeners)

Location: West Tennessee Research and Education Center

605 Airways Blvd. Jackson, TN, 38301

Questions and Additional Information:

(865) 974-7324 for Master Gardener workshop and registration information

(731) 424-1643 for plant sale and garden lecture information

MG Workshop (8:30 AM to 1:00 PM):

Fees: \$20 for workshop and lunch for Master Gardener volunteers

Registration deadline: **Sept. 21, 2015** After **September 21st**, fees rise for to \$25 and meals and materials are not guaranteed.

Mail registration forms to:

Attn: Sandy Kitts

Western Region MG Workshop Registration

2431 Joe Johnson Drive

252 Ellington Plant Science Building

Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

For secure credit card payments, click:

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=4&CATID=57.

'What is Your Garden Style?' It doesn't matter if your garden grows symmetrical green bumps or features funky, found objects, it is **your** garden. Recognizing your own style helps create a garden that is cohesive and distinctive. If you are just starting out, the opportunities are endless, and that can be a blessing and a curse. If your garden is established, push through the inertia to recapture that thrill of something new. We'll talk about the possibilities.

'Bring Home a Little Wow'

Simply put, "Wow" is what we say when we trip over excellence in the garden. Whether it is a delight to the eye, unexpected humor, or a tug on the heartstrings, garden surprises transform a garden walk into an experience, and therefore, a memory. Carefully composed plantings, over-achieving plants, and creative garden ornament can each provide a 'Wow' moment. Linda will share some of her favorite Wows from over three decades of travel as a garden journalist with the hope of sending us home to create a little Wow in our own gardens.

Garden lectures (1:30 and 6:30 PM) and plant sale as well as potluck dinner are free and open to the public.

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

September Meeting

September 3rd 6:30pm

**West Tennessee AgResearch
& Education Center
Auditorium**

Please bring a dish to share.

Board of Directors

Mary Nenarella, President
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Non-voting members :
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)