

MADISON COUNTY
2015
Master
Gardener

The Bridge to Knowledge
Volume 85, Issue 1



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

From The President

Dear Master Gardeners,

Thank you for your vote of confidence! I look forward to serving as your President for the next year. It should be an exciting one.

We have thirty-two new interns and already I have heard some wonderful new ideas from some of them. I think the mentorship concept that Celeste has implemented is a great idea and will help integrate the interns more quickly into the existing group. Please look for new faces at our meetings and introduce yourselves.

It's not too early to start thinking about the Spring Plant Sale. We will be in a new location since last year's venue will not be available, but there will be plenty of room for all the plants you can bring.

Our January speaker is one we always look forward to, Rita Randolph. Remember, the meeting is on January 6th at 309 N. Parkway. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Nenarella, President

Officers for 2015
Pres: Mary Nenarella
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2nd VP: Joan Hughes
Tres: Tammy Overby
Sec: Darlene Tanner
Board members:
Elizabeth Edwards
John Havranek
Susan Luckey
Bill Wyatt

JANUARY MEETING NOTE
The UT Research Center Auditorium will be closed for the first six months of 2015. We will meet at the Extension Office, 309 N. Parkway for those months.
The January meeting is on Tuesday Jan 6th
Rita Randolph will be our speaker.



Chipping of the Green
This will be the first volunteer project of the new year. The workday will be held on the 2nd Sat. of Jan. as usual. Jan. 10th at 9 a.m. at the Jackson Fairgrounds Parking Lot. Please bring gloves, shovel/scoop, and possibly wire cutters.



Memphis Area Master Gardeners has published the 2015 Gardening in the Mid-South Calendar! Like the 2014 calendar that you purchased last year, it is full of gorgeous photos and even more gardening information, including:

- Local experts list their favorite plants in 8 different categories, including hostas and daffodils.
- Plants best suited for the Memphis area in terms of drought/heat tolerance, deer tolerant, native plants, flowering plants.
- Turf grass tips for growing the perfect lawn.
- Kitchen garden guide.
- Dates of all plant society meetings and other horticultural events open to the public.

The price this year is only \$15. Get yours soon as we have a limited supply!

<https://squareup.com/market/memphis-area-master-gardeners/memphis-area-master-gardeners-calendar>

January Garden Tips

Houseplants

With shorter days and cooler temperatures, your inside plants are slowing down for the season. Take a break yourself, and go easy on the watering and feeding. Most houseplants like for the soil to become slightly dry between waterings.

Order seeds

It's a great time to think about seeds for your spring vegetable and flower gardens. Buy now for the best selection.

Harvesting

Continue to gather tasty leaves of collards and kale from your vegetable garden. The cooler weather only sweetens the flavor. Harvest regularly by pinching off the leaves from bottom up so the plants will continue to grow new ones.

Start Seeds Indoors -- Start seeds indoors, if you like, for warm-season annuals, such as tomatoes, marigolds, peppers, cosmos, zucchini, impatiens, salvia, basil, and others. Otherwise, wait until all chance of freezing temperatures has passed -- if they haven't already -- and buy established seedlings at the garden center to plant outdoors then.

Talk of the Town

Celeste Luckey Scott January 2015

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication this past year. I feel like our service projects are making a measurable impact on Madison County citizens as well as the surrounding communities. Most recently, I would like to thank the new interns who have dedicated so much of their time this winter to assisting us in the office with 4-H projects, and the clean-up day at RIFA. I would also like to remind everyone about the upcoming work day for Chipping of the Green. This event will be held at the Jackson Fairgrounds Parking Lot on Saturday Jan. 10th at 9:00 a.m. Be sure to bring gloves, shovel/or big scoop, and possibly wire cutters. This is an annual event hosted by Jackson City Beautiful and provides a tremendous recycling opportunity for those in our community.

On a different note. Many of you may already know, but I would like to let EVERYONE know that my husband and I are expecting our first child! He is a boy, and will be showing up in these parts around early June. I will be taking leave for a few months during the summer, but I will still be available to contact anytime and will be organizing the Fall Intern courses during that time as well. I will however need help from all of you to recruit as many new potential interns as possible during the Summer Celebration and other events this coming summer. I would love to keep our average enrollment around 25-30 annually. Those are high standards, but I think we can achieve them!

I hope you and your families were able to spend a wonderful Christmas Season together, and wish health and happiness to all for the coming year. My hope for the New Year is that Madison County Master Gardeners continue to have a strong presence in our communities, generate new ideas, and draw others into our organization. Happy New Year!!

Left over: I thank all those who served as officers during 2014 as well as those who worked to identify our incoming officers. We have good people coming onboard as officers. Let's try to make their jobs easy in the coming year.

Happy New Year! Lenten roses and narcissus will soon be flowering followed by crocuses and a myriad of other plants. The cold gloomy days are beginning to lengthen and will hopefully begin warming soon. It's time to plan for another gardening season and to set about making it the best gardening season ever.

Weather: November was way colder than normal followed by a very mild December. What will the next few months bring? No matter, make up a planting schedule now especially if you will be planting seed. This schedule can be modified as needed according to the actual weather.

Thai Giant: My Thai Giant elephant ears did not get as big during 2014 as they did in 2013 and did not mature their seed. I cut 3 seed pots with a 6-inch stalk before the first freeze and put them in water like flowers. The seed apparently matured and need planting right now. More on this next month.

Overwintering plants: The 300 odd plants in cold frames are hopefully just dormant and not dead. I, as their caretaker and servant, supply water as needed and move lids on and off according to the temperature. I have more overwintering little plants in the sunroom now than ever before; maybe 200. This room is kept at a minimum of 50 degrees with a small electric heater. Those in the garage may be exposed to light frosts. Amaryllis, cannas, clivia, gingers and dormant cuttings do well in the garage. The privileged few tropicals such as elephant ears live in the upstairs bathtub below the corner window. And now you know why I got Carol involved in master gardening.

Strawberry plants: I have more 'Jewel' and 'Chandler' strawberry plants than I need and even a few 'Honeoye'. Call me if you would like some. They are free. They are worth more than that...

Now is the time to: Do final planning as to what you want for a garden this year and when you will seed any transplants which you intend to grow. Peppers require warm temperatures in which to germinate as well as eight to ten weeks in which to grow. I will be planting this seed before the end of January. Tomatoes grow a bit faster and at cooler temperatures. Still, they must be planted during January if I am to have large flowering tomato plants for the plant sale. Some ornamentals are very slow to grow and should be planted immediately.



Amaryllis show: The Dixon gallery in Memphis has collected every amaryllis variety which they could find and has them flowering at the moment. This amaryllis show will continue for the next several weeks and is well worth seeing.

Lenton Roses: I will be looking for a couple of people to help pot Lenton roses for the plant sale at the January meeting. I would like to get this done on a reasonable warm day in January.

2015 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Winter School Schedule

Feb. 25, Wednesday

1:00-4:00 Silent Auction items may be submitted

Feb. 26, Thursday

7:00 Registration opens, Silent Auction begins

8:00 Welcome with Leadership Introductions – Dr. Chris Cooper

8:15 Our New TMG State Coordinator – Dr. Natalie Bumgarner

9:30 Grow Your Organization with Better Understanding of Personality Profiles and Group dynamics – Melody Rose

11:15 Concurrent Sessions –

*Plant Scouting and Basic Diagnostics for the Master Gardener - Dr. Frank Hale & Dr. Alan

Windham

*Increasing your Organization's Digital Footprint - Emily Tipton

12:15 Lunch & Alliance Meetings

1:45 SFE Winner Presentations - Suzanne Allen

3:00 Master Gardeners: Round Table Discussions (Idea Sharing/Networking)

*Social Media

*Advanced Master Gardener

*Improving Meeting Attendance

*Jr. Master Gardener

*Fund Raising –small groups -large projects

*Networking

*Intern Training

*Educational Events

3:00 Agents: Visit with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner and Dr. Chris Cooper

4:00 Concurrent Sessions –

*Improving your Membership Recruitment and Retention – Carol Mathews

*Plant Fertilization Strategies – Debbie Joines

Feb. 27, Friday

8:00 Welcome – Dr. Chris Cooper

8:15 Are Hydrangeas Wimps for Diseases and Insects? –Dr. Mark Windham

9:30 Concurrent Sessions –

*So You Want to Apply for a Grant? – Maureen Mulroy

*Balancing Pesticide Use with Biological Controls – Dr. Frank Hale

10:45 Local Identities – Shared Vision – Janet Carson

12:00 Lunch & Awards Presentations – Dr. Chris Cooper & Dr. Natalie Bumgarner

1:00 Concurrent Sessions -

*Hands on Grafting (Apples and Tomatoes) Chris Ramsey & Dr. Natalie Bumgarner

*GMOs – Who, What, Why – Dr. Scott Senseman, Dr. Dennis West, Dr. Heather Young

3:00 End – Door Prizes and Silent Auction (you must be present to win)

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

January Meeting

TUESDAY
JANUARY 6TH
Extension Office
309 N. Parkway

Rita Randolph

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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Master Gardener financial standing information is available upon request.