



MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 5

www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery

May 8, 2008

President's Message

(Don Shadows Trip) May 24, 2008 – The bus leaves from K-Mart on Madison Street at 6:30 A.M.

(Door Prizes) A special Thank You to those who brought in door prize items at our April meeting. We can still use additional door prize items if you can bring one.

(Plant Sale/Garden Tour) June 21, 2008 – I have potted several plants for the plant sale – I hope you have too! Selling plants is a great fund raiser. We will need several volunteers to help at the garden sites on June 21, 2008. Volunteers will assist by conducting tours at the various sites and checking tickets, etc. We will have sign-up sheets at our May and June meetings for the seven sites. Also tickets are available – I hope each member will pick up some and sell them to your friends and neighbors.

(Master Gardener Projects) Select a project – sign up – get involved. You are encouraged to log at least 5 of your volunteer hours on one of our projects.

(Lasagna Gardening) I attended this session recently in Nashville. The program was very interesting. This speaker shared a no-till method of gardening.

(A Perfect Container Plant) If there ever was a perfect container plant, calibrachoa is it. A trailing habit makes it great for hanging baskets, and a single plant can cover a container. One idea is to mix calibrachoa with other more upright or spiky annuals. It's a tender perennial, but most gardeners treat it as an annual. The flowers hold up to rain better than petunias and don't require deadheading. Calibrachoa is a relative newcomer to the garden scene in North America. Calibrachoa doesn't really have a common name yet. You may have heard it called mini petunia or million bells, which is actually a brand name. It does look like a smaller version of petunias. Lots of series are on the market – Superbells, Callie, Million Bells, and Cabaret are some of the most popular ones. Calibrachoa grows much better in containers than in the ground because it prefers the loose, slightly acid (pH of 5.5 to 6.5) soil in most potting mixes. Feed it monthly with a quarter-strength acid fertilizer, such as Miracid to keep the plant green and producing the most flowers. In late summer it responds well to a good pruning and will respond with a flush of new growth and flowers within a couple of weeks, especially if you give it a shot of fertilizer as well.

(Hydrangea – *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle') A great pick when it comes to easy-to-grow. This variety doesn't need a specific pH to adjust its color or bloom beautifully. If you're pruning-challenged, 'Annabelle' is easy to work with – just cut all

the stems to 10 to 12 inches tall in late winter. If you want more hydrangeas, most all of them can be divided just like perennials. Dig and split them in early spring.

A QUOTE FOR THE MONTH – Unknown person is quoted as saying, “The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.” This might apply to our projects?



Eunice and John Martin hosted a tour for many Master Gardeners and friends through their shady yard filled with a profusion of wildflowers Saturday, April 8, 2008.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of April 2, 2008		\$6038.67
Debits		
#1705 Short Course supplies	-116.85	
#1706 Short Course supplies	-125.00	
#1707 Refund—Overpayment of dues	- 20.00	
TOTAL		-261.85
Deposits		
Short Course	1800.00	
Dues	40.00	
Short Course	80.00	
Dues	40.00	
Dues	220.00	
Don Shadow trip	280.00	
Dues	40.00	
TOTAL		<u>2500.00</u>
Balance as of April 30, 2008		\$8276.82

MCMGA OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS 2008

President	David Baker	(931) 645-3020	
VP Program	Linda Earp	(931) 645-9700	
VP Project	Katie Smith	(931) 647-5893	kfs37042@hotmail.com
Secretary	Margaret Pace	(931) 647-4328	pacem@apsu.edu
Treasurer	Ann Langmack	(931) 553-2953	Lhar29@charter.net
Refreshments	Volunteers		
Historian	(position open)		
Newsletter	Diann Nance	(931) 648-8701	diann@diannsgreenhouse.com
Website	Charles Fitzpatrick	(931) 906-6408	cfitzpatrick@charter.net

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDERS ASSOCIATION General Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2008

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Following the 6:30 p.m. food and fellowship period, the April MCMGA meeting, held at the Extension Office, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President David Baker.

- The March 2008 MCMGA minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved, with corrections to the April date of the Treasurer's report and \$20 fee for the May 24 Don Shadows Nursery Trip.
- An electronic problem prevented the complete distribution of the MG Newsletter – extra printed copies were available.
- Forty seats have been reserved by MCMGA members for the May 24 Don Shadow Nursery bus trip, fifteen additional seats are available for purchase by guests.
- MG members were reminded of five upcoming local MG related events:
 - April 12, Wildflower Tour
 - April 19, APSU Plant the Campus Red
 - April 26, Red River in Bloom
 - May 8, Monthly MG Meeting, Dr. Randy Westbrook, Invasive Weed Expert
 - May 10, Rose & Iris Garden Tour
- Vince Hernandez requested MG volunteers to assist with an 'Annuals and Perennials' presentation at Ft. Campbell's Fisher House on June 17.
- Sharon Baggett announced the Altrusa Club Fern Sale to be held April 12 at First Federal, Tradewinds South.
- MG Jim Pugh extended an invitation to his APSU Senior Exhibition scheduled for April 21 in UC Don Jenkins Gallery.
- Door prizes are still needed.

APRIL PROGRAM: Details and needs of the MCMGA Garden Tour, plant sale and service projects and future projects were discussed. MG members are urged to volunteer time to support the twelve 2008 Master Gardener projects established to beautify our community area.

Tickets for the Montgomery County Garden Tour, scheduled for June 21, are priced at \$10 and are available at Clarksville Quick Print, Extension Office and Betsy's Gardens. Betsy's Gardens will give ticket holders a 10% discount on purchases made on the tour date. A location map of the seven gardens is included on the ticket brochure. On-site tickets will also be available. MG volunteers are needed work at each of these seven sites.

John Matthews requested that MG contributions to the June 21 Plant Sale be labeled with the common name and priced by the dollar. Perennials should be potted now.

Following door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.
Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Extension Office, 2:30 – 3:18 pm

Present: President David Baker, Katie Smith, Margaret Pace, Ann Langmack, Diann Nance, Delona Shockey, Vince Hernandez, Extension Agent Karla Kean

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A purchase of six MG yard signs with wire racks was approved.
- The MCMGA treasurer's report indicated an ending balance of \$8,276.82 as of April 30, 2008.
- Sign-up sheets for volunteers working the June Garden Tour and Plant Sale will be available at the May MG General Meeting. MG members are urged to contribute expertise to one of the twelve MCMGA service projects.
- UT Extension recent electronic upgrade will require a new ID for the MCMGA webmaster.
- To alleviate the recent problem with electronic submission of the MCMGA Newsletter, picture size will be reduced.
- Jim Janosky of the Nashville State Community College is available to present the school's horticultural program.
- Vince Hernandez submitted a request application for a MCMGA educational project to be held each Tuesday in June at Ft. Campbell's Fisher House. The project was approved, subject to further information.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

Dates to Remember

May 8	Monthly Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Extension Office	Dr. Randy Westbrook, Invasive Weed Expert
May 10	Tour rose garden	9-12 a.m.	104 Hawkins Rd	Lionel Austell
May 10	Hosta Sale			
May 24	Bus Trip \$20, box lunch included	Bus leaves at 6:00 a.m.	Meet at Sango K-Mart	Don Shadow Nursery (Sign up by April 10.)
Jun. 4	Board Meeting	2:30 p.m.	Public Library	
Jun. 7	Hydrangea Tour	9-12 a.m.	376 Salem Rd.	Joanne Hackman
Jun. 12	Monthly Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Extension Office	Chris Robbins, Irrigation
Jun. 21	Garden Tour	9 a.m.-3p.m.		Delona Shockey
Jun. 21	Plant Sale	9 a.m.-11a.m.	Shan Smith	John Matthews, contact
Jul. 2	Board Meeting	2:30 p.m.	Public Library	
Jul. 10	Monthly Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Extension Office	Kenny Coleman, Kountry Koi

Karla's Korner

May 2008

Spring is always a busy time for all of us as we dig, plant and prune to make our gardens look the best they can! After all, we are Master Gardeners that's what we do right? Well, for the most part that is true! As Master Gardener volunteers we also have a commitment to the community through our ongoing projects and other educational activities. One of our most important program objectives is to expand the capabilities of the Extension office in providing horticultural information to individuals and groups in the community. Each year we continue to recruit and train new volunteers as well as take on new projects within the community. As we continue to reach out to the community it is crucial that the volunteers work on the ongoing projects.

Each ongoing project listed in the newsletter has a team leader who is in charge of that project; then Katie Smith, our project chair is in charge of making sure those team leaders are doing their jobs! As team leaders one of your main jobs is to secure volunteers who will work regularly with you on your project. Setting a weekly or monthly workday on the high maintenance projects is essential during the growing season. Meet with your team a few times so that everyone knows what jobs need to be done and you will gradually work into a system that fits best with all your schedules. I know that this can be tough as we all are busy with our own gardens and lives, but we have also taken on a commitment to the community. With commitment comes responsibility! Remember our official slogan is "Helping Tennessee Grow Better Communities."

Master Gardener 2007 Interns:

Hours & CEU's (40 ACE hours plus 8 CEU's) are due **September 30th, 2008**. If you have these completed now, you may turn them in at anytime. After 9-30-08, I will order your official name-tags and certificates.

Certified Master Gardeners:

Hours & CEU's (25 ACE hours plus 8 CEU's) are due **September 30th, 2008**.

Team Leaders:

Project evaluation forms are due **September 30th, 2008**. Please keep track of what is going on with your project as well as pictures for my end of year reports! Contact me or Katie Smith if you need a copy of the project evaluation report.

Upcoming Events:

- **MG Hotline Training: May 15th, 2008**; 9:00 – 10:00 am at the Extension office (see Karla)
- **Fruits of the Backyard Field Day: June 17, 2008**; Middle TN Research and Education Center, Spring Hill TN.
- **Blooms Days, June 28-29, 2008**: University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville, TN
- **Summer Celebration, July 10, 2008**: West TN Research and Education Center, Jackson, TN
- **Steak and Potatoes Field Day, August 5, 2008**: Plateau Research and Education Center, Crossville, TN

More Obsessed Gardener

You teach your children the wonders of gardening.

Children? Who has time to have children?

You think Eliot Coleman is cute.

You think Roger Swain is cute.

You would never kill a ladybug.

You bring them inside for the winter.

You are proud of your baby carrots.

You carry pictures of them in your wallet.

You love gardening more than anything.

"And what's wrong with *that?!"*

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS FOR 2008

Community projects are the number one public advertisement for Master Gardeners. Our organization has accepted the projects named below to assist Clarksville and Montgomery County in beautifying our area. Please review the following projects for one that interests you. Hours spent on these projects count toward the ACE program. Thank you for your participation.

<p>Project 1: The Extension Garden located behind the UT Agricultural Extension Office. Three separate plots are combined to create the Youth Garden. These plots include the Butterfly Garden, the Herb Garden, and the Handicap Garden. Co-Chair is Phil Greenawalt, 906-2967, plgreenawalt@charter.net.</p>
<p>Project 2: Smith-Trahern Mansion overlooks the Cumberland River in downtown Clarksville. This beautiful, historic site is used for public functions including weddings, meetings, and guided tours. Co-Chair is Katie Smith, 647-5893, kfs37042@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Project 3: Adopt-a-Plot (Wednesdays starting at 6:30 p.m.) for the Montgomery County Master Gardeners is located at the intersection of Madison Avenue and Dogwood Avenue. Our organization has been a long-time contributor to this Street Department Program. Co-Chair is Barbara Plechaty, 358-9340, dogwood931@charter.net</p>
<p>Project 4: Clarksville Police Department Headquarters is located on Commerce Street in downtown Clarksville. This is a well-visited public site that supports our local city government. Co-Chair is Allen Gilbert, 798-9763, allen.l.gilbert@us.army.mil.</p>
<p>Project 5: Most residents of our community utilize The Montgomery County Library. Donated indoor plants provide a lush background for this quiet haven. Co-Chair is Janice Ledbetter, 552-4590, jledbetter123@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Project 6: Our own Agricultural Extension Center has been landscaped to provide show for visiting speakers and organizations. Three areas that are maintained are the Shade garden, the Roadside Garden, and the Main Entrance Garden. Co-Chairs are Jim and Holly Conaster, 553-8725, jim_conaster@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Project 7: The Master Gardener Hotline was instituted to give community members a wealth of knowledge to draw upon for everyday gardening questions. This program is key to understanding and sharing of knowledge. Co-Chair is Karla Kean, 648-5725, kkean@utk.edu.</p>
<p>Project 8: To keep pace with advances in technology the MCMGA website was developed to keep members up to date and informed. Co-Chair is Charles Fitzpatrick, 906-6408, cfitzpatrick@charter.net</p>
<p>Project 9: As part of our monthly meetings the MCMGA Garden News was created to keep our membership informed. Contributions are welcome. Co-Chair is Diann Nance, 648-8701, diann@diannsgreenhouse.com</p>
<p>Project 10: The L & N Railroad Station is another of our city's historic sites. Located on 10th Street and Commerce, this landmark is used for weddings and picnics. Co-Chair is Jay Fangman, 645-3632, fangmanj@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Project 11: Every spring APSU invites the master gardeners to lead the campus residents in the Paint-the-Campus-Red Day. Master gardeners use their skills to direct the students in proper garden design and placement under the direction of the university landscapers. Co-Chair is Philenese Slaughter, 358-4187, slaughterp@apsu.edu</p>
<p>Project 12: Habitat for Humanity builds houses and master gardeners help landscape them when called upon to do so. Co-Chair is Debby Johnson 368-0239, debtj@hotmail.com</p>