

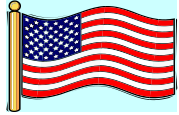


MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION "Garden Briefs"

Volume 13, Issue 05

www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery

May 10, 2007



President's Message

The Endless Summer Collection Introduces "Blushingbride" Hydrangea. It's a pure white mophead, which gradually takes on a subtle blush of pink. It has dark-green foliage with an ability to rebloom on both old and new wood. Available at Lowes and Home Depot.

Our plant sale on April 28 was a tremendous success. The final tally was approximately \$1,600.00. We are thinking about a fall sale in late September. Special Thanks to Delona for coordinating the event, providing plants, and being persistent with getting the Leaf Chronicle to post notice in the Community Section and a special article about the sale. Also THANKS to those who brought and bought plants.

Silver-foliage plants are great garden companions and stand up to drought and heat. Annuals include: (1) Dusty Miller and (2) "Silver Fall" dichondra. Perennials include: (1) Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade' (2) 'Beacon Silver' deadnettle (3) 'Big Ears' lambs' ears (4) 'Cinnabar Silver' coral bells (5) 'Jack Frost' Siberian bugloss (6) 'Silver King' Western mugwort (7) 'Powis Castle' Western mugwort (8) 'Silver King' Western mugwort (9) Silverfeather eulalia grass (10) Silvermound Artemisia and (11) "White Nancy" deadnettle. Shrubs include" (1) Blue rug creeping juniper (2) 'Moonglow' Rock Mountain juniper and (3) Silver Anniversary abelia.

I set my tomato plants at the end of April. I always dig a deep hole and place corn cobs and a back folded center section (after trimming away the excess plastic on the sides) of a baby diaper (a new one) at the bottom to help hold moisture.

For container gardening you can slice a sponge into several sections. Cut across the shorter dimension. Place 3 or 4 pieces into the soil to help with moisture retention. A natural sponge was shown in the article I read, but I suppose any type of sponge would work. I would soak the pieces prior to use. This helps if you're a little late getting the container watered.

A QUOTE FOR THE MONTH – Actor and author Quentin Crisp is quoted as saying, "Never keep up with the Joneses. Drag them down to your level."

David Baker
MCMGA
President



**PLEASE
PAY
2007 Master
Gardener
Dues**

**A BIG THANK YOU to Diann Nance - Katie Smith -
Talitha Delco - Debby Johnson
the HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE members for tonight.**

**Committee members for June 14th, 2007 are:
Beverly Guinn – Margaret Pace - Martha & Al Williams**

**Time to pay
your 2007
Association
DUES**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDERS ASSOCIATION

April 12, 2007

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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

- Karla Kean was welcomed back from MO. She is currently serving in a temporary position until interviews are completed.
- Certificates were presented to the seven recent MCMGA graduates who were still lacking certificates.
- Helga Browder is encouraging submission of MG favorite recipes for the MCMGA recipe book. Members need to include their names on the recipe.
- A sign-up sheet was available for the April 21st APSU 'Plant the Campus Red' event. MG members are encouraged to volunteer their expertise.
- The Franklin St. project is no longer a MCMGA project.
- Other MCMGA projects were discussed and volunteers were urged to sign the project sheet.
- Sincere thanks were expressed to Joanna Hackman and her team for the success of the MG Short Course held in March. A total of 36 participants enrolled.
- The March 2007 MCMGA minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.
- The MO Botanical Gardens trip scheduled for June 9-10 was cancelled due to lack of participants.
- Members were reminded of the Annual TN State Master Gardeners Conference to be held in Kingsport, June 8-10. Registration fees are \$160 which does not include hotel (Marriott, double occupancy \$89).
- Two events of interest in May include the May 12 Hosta Plant Sale at the Brentwood YMCA and the Iris City Gardens (Primm Springs) car trip, leaving from Big Lots at 8:00 a.m. on May 19.
- Delona Shockley encouraged members to volunteer for the April 28 MG Plant Sale at Veterans Plaza, (8:00-2:00) and to provide plant donations (available by 7:00 a.m. that day) She asked that all plants be identified and priced. She also shared suggestions on preparing items for the plant sale – using address labels for necessary information and placing bulbs in plastic bags.

APRIL PROGRAM: African Violets

Betty Lambert provided a handout and a video produced by a Nashville Green house specializing in African Violets reproduction. African violets are grown from a starter leaf to a full blooming plant in 34 weeks. These plants have a delicate root system and prefer a light soil (peat moss and perlite) and weekly watering.

Following door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.
Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

Montgomery County Master Gardeners' Association Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Public Library, 2:30 – 3:25 p.m.

Present: President David Baker, Linda Earp, Barbara Plechaty, Shirley Calvert, Margaret Pace, Extension Agent Karla Kean

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The April 28th MCMGA Plant Sale held at the Veterans Plaza generated \$1,640. 65. Sincere thanks to Delona Shockley for her organizational efforts and contributions to this very successful project. A tentative date of September 22nd is suggested for a fall plant sale.
- As of May 2nd, MCMGA has a bank balance of \$6,861, 23.
- The meeting time has been changed to 7:30 am at the Riverside Drive Big Lots for the MG members traveling together to Iris City Gardens on May 19th.
- Shirley Calvert is replacing Carol Martin as co-chairman for the L&N Railroad Station project. Carol's time and effort to this project is much appreciated.
- Because of the damaging Easter frost, the visit to Joanne Hackman's hydrangea garden has been cancelled.
- Jim Willard will be the presenter for the July 12th MCMGA monthly meeting.
- Collection of the \$20 fee for the September 29th Don Shadows Nursery bus trip will begin in July. The bus will be limited to 50 passengers. There will be a waiting list for guests of MG members. Entry to the nursery is by bus only – cars are not allowed.
- The TN Urban Forestry Council meeting will be held in Memphis on September 8th.
- The MCMGA computer and Hotline has been moved to room 108 at the Extension Office.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

The cold arctic air that made its way across Tennessee last month left a trail of damage through native woodlands, home landscapes and made a major impact on small fruit and tree fruit growers. The exact extent of damage to trees and other vegetation is not exactly known right now; however, I have been told that this is the worst that many people have ever seen.

So, what will happen to the trees over the next few months and what can we do to help them recover? Whether the plant will survive or not is often an unanswerable question. It depends on the species, the growth stage, the actual low temperature and the duration of the low temperature. One thing to remember is to not get over ambitious and severely prune what appears to be dead. Give the plants two to three weeks of recovery time then remove only what is dried up and dead. When pruning a plant, it is important to understand how the plant is being affected by the pruning technique and frequency. Pruning is a stress that can have a dramatic effect on a plant, again through altering hormonal balances. Removing more than one-third of the foliage will reduce the plant's photosynthetic abilities significantly, decreasing its ability to manufacture enough food to support itself. As a rule, no more than one-third of a plant should be removed per growing season.

In trees and other plants where the leaves appear blackened or purple the leaves themselves are most likely dead, but the plant as a whole should recover. According to Extension Forester David Mercker, ice crystals have punctured the cell membranes in the leaves causing loss of turgidity (stiffness) and recovery of individual leaves is not likely. Woody plants will be stressed as they attempt to generate a flush of new foliage as they are drawing upon already depleted starch reserves. Mercker also states that trees such as poplar and sweet-gum will re-flush with new foliage quicker than trees such as oak and hickory. Tree with leaves exhibiting rolled or droopy leaves are suffering from a temporary relocation of water and should recover fine. As we know, plants under stress can be more susceptible to disease and insect damage, so time will divulge the impending effects. The best remedy for this type of damage is water, water, water. If natural rainfall does not provide 1 – 1 ½ inches, thoroughly soak the plant twice weekly. Do not fertilize woody plants until the end of next winter (January-February 2008).

Perennials such as hosta, daylily and others should rebound from the roots although they may bloom later or more sparsely than usual. Wait until the leaves are dried so you can see the extent of the damage, then prune out the dead areas. For plants such as big-leaf hydrangea that formed buds on last year's growth, the blooms are more than likely gone for this year; however, those that bloom on new growth such as crape myrtle should be fine.

Pruning Crape myrtles with Winter Freeze Damage Mark Halcomb, University of TN Area Nursery Specialist-McMinnville, TN

You may soon learn that your crapes have been killed to the ground or severely damaged by the low temperatures that occurred around April 7. If this is the case, the bark will split and peel off. Nick the bark with a knife to confirm that the tissue is indeed dead to the ground. If the bark is not busted and peeling, slice under the bark, the plants will probably recover from a light caramel color under the bark but not from a medium or darker shade or brown.

Use a chain saw, pruning saw or loppers to cut the stems as close to the ground as convenient. This will make way for the new growth. When the new stems have reached a height of 3 to 4 feet or so, begin to select 3 to 5 of the stronger stems and cut the others back as low as convenient.

Allow the selected stems to grow naturally. Branches on the lower third of the plants can be removed from the trunks the following March. Periodically remove new basal suckers, growth that appears on the lower stems and branches that grow to the center or rub.

The glorious part of this opportunity is the ugly gnarly pruning wounds that would be present from annual topplings, will be removed and gone forever. Avoid them by never topping your crape myrtles again.

Maintain 2-3 inches of mulch with none within 2-3 inches of the stems. Extend the mulch 2-3 feet out from the stems. Water thoroughly once a week in the absence of meaningful rainfall. We are much drier than normal.

Crapes do not need to be topped. Topping is harmful. Topping does not increase the bloom on crapes. Dead blooms do not have to be removed.

Some of the newer cultivars have more interesting bark than when we selected crapes only by color. Some have exfoliating bark.

MASTER GARDENERS PROJECTS FOR 2007

Chair: Barbara Plechaty, dogwood931@charter.net

As a Master Gardener, community projects are the number one public advertisement for our organization. Our organization has accepted the below named projects in and around the City of Clarksville to assist our community and beautifying our city. Take a moment to review the following projects for one that may interest you and contribute to the necessary community hours in the ACE program. Thank you for your participation.

<p>Project # 1: The <u>Extension Garden</u> (Sat. 9 - till) 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 for this project is Jay Fangman (931) 645-3632.</p>
<p>Project # 2: <u>Smith-Trahern Mansion</u> overlooks the Cumberland River in Downtown Clarksville. This beautiful, historic site is used for public functions to include weddings, meetings, and guided tours. Co-Chair for this project is Katie Smith 647-5893.</p>
<p>Project # 3: <u>Adopt-A-Plot</u> (Wed @ 6:30 pm)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 for this project is Shirley Provence, 645-9601, sprovence@mindspring.com and Barbara Plechaty, (931) 358-9340, dogwood931@charter.net</p>
<p>Project # 4: <u>Clarksville Police Department Headquarters</u> 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 <u>Montgomery County Library</u>. Donated indoor plants provide a lush background for this quiet haven. Co-Chairs are Janice Ledbetter or Fran Irvine, 552-4590, jledbetter123@yahoo.com.</p>
<p>Project # 6: Our own <u>Agricultural Extension Center</u> 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-Chair for this project Yvonne Wheeler-Hiett 645-1785 ywartist@aol.com.</p>
<p>Project # 7: The <u>Master Gardener Hotline</u> 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 NEEDED</p>
<p>Project # 8: As part of our monthly meetings, the <u>Master Gardener Website and Newsletter</u> were created to inform our membership of upcoming events and gardening knowledge. All members are encouraged to publish informative creations to this publication. Co-Chairs are Shirley Calvert and Jackie Peak, 906-1691, skcalvert@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Project # 9: Every Spring (April 21 weekend), APSU invites the master gardeners to lead the campus residents in the <u>Plant-The-Campus-Red</u> 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 Philene Slaughter, 358-4187, slaughterp@apsu.edu</p>
<p>Project # 10: <u>Curb Appeal Rossvie High</u> – Improve entrance to High School. Co-Chair: Barbara Plechaty (931) 358-9340</p>
<p>Project # 11: <u>Habitat for Humanity (426 Glen Street Clarksville, TN)</u> – MG to design and plan gardens & yard. Co-Chair: Debbie Johnson (931) 368-0239</p>
<p>Project # 12: The <u>L&N Railroad Station</u> is another of our city's historic sites. Located on 10th Street and Commerce, this landmark is used for weddings and picnics. Co-Chair for this project is Shirley Calvert, 906-1691. skcalvert@bellsouth.net</p>

THANKS to DELONA & FELLOW MG for an
EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL
MCMGA Plant Sale at Veteran Plaza on
APRIL 28, 2007
Stepping Stone won by Mr. ROSS WHITE

2007 MC MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM CALENDAR 2007			
May		May	May
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	2 nd	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
International Master Gardeners Conference Little Rock, Arkansas	2 nd – 5 th		Check it out at: http://mg2007.uaex.edu/
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off	10 th	6:30 pm	Shade Gardening – Carl Herbison
Hosta Plant Sale	12 th		Brentwood YMCA
Mother's Day	13th		
Armed Forces Day	19th		
Irish City Gardens	19 th	7:30-7:45 am	Car Trip from Big Lots Riverside Dr. to Primm Springs, TN.
Memorial Day	28th		
June		June	June
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	6 th	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
2007 Tennessee State Master Gardening Conference	8 th -10 th	Conference details & registration: http://tnmgc2007.net	MeadowView Convention Center & Resort in Kingsport, TN Cost: (early Bird by 3/15 \$135)
(CANCEL) St. Louis Botanical Gardens	9th-10th		Bus Trip – St. Louis
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	14 th	6:30 pm	Woody Plants – Carol Reese
Father's Day	17th		
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	27 th	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	To Be Determined
July		July	July
Independence Day (Wednesday)	4th		
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	12 th	6:30 pm	Jim Willard
Jackson Summer Celebration	12 th		Jackson, TN
August		August	August
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	1 st	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	9 th	6:30 pm	TBA
September		September	September
Labor Day	3rd		
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	5 th	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	13 th	6:30 pm	TBA
MG Fall Plant Sale	22 nd	8 – 12 am	Public Library – Clarksville, TN
Don Shadows Nursery - Nashville	29th	6:00 am	Bus Trip – Leave K-Mart South Cost: \$20
October		October	October
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	3 rd	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
Building Great Communities Conference	6 th & 7 th	Thurs. & Fri.	Memphis Hilton - Additional information, registration, & hotel rates at tufc@comcast.net
Columbus Day	8th		
9 th Tennessee Tree Climbing Championship	8 th		Memphis Botanic Garden – Registration at www.tufc.com starting June 1
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	11 th		TBA
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	31 st	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	To Be Determined
November		November	November
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	8 th	6:30 pm	Christmas Decorations - Natural
Veterans Day	11 th		
Thanksgiving	22 nd		
December		December	December
MCMGA Executive Committee Meeting	5 th	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Public Library
Monthly MCMGA Meeting - MC Ext. Off.	13 th	6:30 pm	Christmas Gala – Party
Christmas (Tuesday)	25th		

MCMGA OFFICERS 2007	Additional Positions:
President - David Baker	Refreshments - Beverly Guinn
Vice President, Program Chair - Linda Earp	Historian - Marilyn McCue
Vice President, Project Chair - Barbara Plechaty Dogwood931@charter.net	Newsletter - Shirley Calvert skcalvert@bellsouth.net
Secretary - Margaret Pace pacem@apsu.edu	Website - Jackie Peak jjpeak@bellsouth.net
Treasurer - Shirley Calvert skcalvert@bellsouth.net	

May 19, 2007 Caravan will met at Big Lot's on Riverside Dr. around 7:30 – 7:40 am.

Direction to: IRIS CITY GARDENS – PRIMM SPRINGS, TN
7675 Younger Creek Road – 1-800-934-4747

Take Hwy 48 to Dickson, TN.
Follow HWY 46 (Like going to Renaissance Center) – cross over I-40
Keep going until you can turn left (Major intersection with traffic light) onto Hwy 100
Turn right onto Hwy 4 E (Just before getting to I-840)
Go 3.8 miles turning right onto Lampley road
Then 0.8 miles turning left onto Younger road
Go 0.4 miles to Iris City Gardens