



# MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 10

[www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery)

October 9, 2008

## President's Message

**(Door Prizes)** We can still use additional door prize items - if you can bring one.

**(Nominating Committee)** Our nominating committee comprised of Sharon Baggett, Ginny Bryant and Beverly Guinn will present the 2009 slate of officers at our October meeting. We vote at the November meeting. Nominations can be offered from the floor during the November meeting also. Officers must be Tennessee Certified Master Gardeners.

**(Soft Touch' Holly)** 'Soft Touch' Holly is a good plant around home foundations, in beds adjacent to sidewalks or around the boughs of tall trees. For our tight clay soils that drain slowly this holly is better than other varieties. The summer growth rate is slow and steady. The 2x3 foot spreading 'Soft Touch' is planted en masse. Over the years shrubs will mat together as low mounds.

**(Winter Containers)** There are many good choices for the cool weather container. These include: pansies, johnny jump ups, corkscrew rush, ornamental kale, cyclamen, creeping jenny, juniper, mums, and liriop. Use a variety in foliage texture and color to provide visual interest.

**(Hardy Mums)** Mums are "photoperiodic," meaning they bloom in response to short days and long nights and require a specific amount of time under short-day growing conditions to set flower buds. To make sure your hardy mums come back next spring, plant as early as possible in the season to give them time to establish strong roots. Choose a spot, in full sun, with excellent drainage - roots that sit in wet soil over winter don't do well. If you plant mums in September, get the plants started with a single application of liquid fertilizer, but don't continue to fertilize them. Leave dormant stems on mums through the winter. Add a light layer of well-drained mulch to the flower bed after the ground freezes - a heavy layer may keep the plants too wet. Uncover mums as new growth appears in the spring.

**(The Truth About Bee Stings)** Many people are afraid of getting stung by bees, but the reality is that bees rarely sting. Here are the facts: (1) Only female bees have the ability to sting. (2) Stinging is often a reaction to threats to the hive. Fortunately, the vast majority of bees are not hive-formers and only sting if severely harassed. (3) Honey bee stingers are barbed. When a bee stings someone, she tears a piece of abdomen, causing her death. Some wasp species can sting repeatedly. (4) If you are allergic to bee stings, keep appropriate medications handy. Be sure your family and neighbors know of your allergy.

**A QUOTE FOR THE MONTH** - James Thurber is quoted as saying, "It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers".

**MCMGA OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS 2008**

President	David Baker	(931) 645-3020	
Past President	Delona Shockey	(931) 326-5385	
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
Exten. Liaison	Karla Kean	(931) 648-5725	kkean@utk.edu

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Beginning balance (checkbook) 9-3-08	\$ 8,626.56
Ending balance (checkbook) 10/1/08	\$ 8,626,56

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDERS ASSOCIATION  
General Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2008**

**AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

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

- The August 2008 MCMGA minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.
- Copies of the MCMGA Rules and Bylaws containing proposed changes were available for membership consideration. Changes, to be determined by membership vote at the October meeting, include additional information concerning hospitality committee responsibilities, sign-in sheet for monthly

hospitality volunteers, speaker fees, responsibilities of the MCMGA immediate past president, and MCMGA Plant Sale schedule.

- Certification CEU are available for the September 20 Rutherford County MG event.
- Flyers, to be posted locally, advertising the October 11 MCMGA Plant Sale at the Veterans Plaza were distributed. Tips for plant sale preparation and labeling were given – contribute clean, trimmed plants, labeled with common name and priced to sell. All MCMGA members are urged to contribute, as proceeds provide 4-H scholarships and benefit provision of MG programs. Plant donations will be delivered for those MG members attending the October 9 MCMGA meeting, but unable to assist with the October 11 Plant Sale.
- September 20 will be a work session at the Clarksville Police Department Headquarters, beginning at 2:00 pm. Volunteers are still needed to assist with the Master Gardener Hotline.
- A web site for valuable plant care information is PlantCare.com.
- Helpful plant tips shared by Delona Shockey included; recycling used cups instead of buying potting containers, marking bulb planting locations with a stick, marking beds where flower seeds were thrown with a circle of rocks, refrain from pulling off broken hosta leaves and spraying houseplants for insects 3-4 weeks prior to bringing back in the home.
- SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Dr. John Matthews presented a timely ‘Fruit Tree Management’ program. The absence of a late spring frost and the previous year’s scarce production resulted in an extremely heavy season for local fruit crops. For best quality of fruit, choose a site with well-drained soil, good air circulation and cultivators adapted to local area and planting site. Choose root stock based on desired characteristics, season of maturity and disease resistant qualities. Late ripening trees usually produce the best quality of fruit – a popular local cultivator is ‘Liberty’. Pollination must be provided to ensure fruit set and growth. Some fruits require two or more cultivar plantings, in addition to insect pollination. Prune annually in late winter and control pest with timely applications of insecticide and fungicide. A recommended reading from UT Extensions publications is [Disease and Insect Control in Home Fruit Plantings](#) (PB1622). For winter preparation, remove mummified fruit, broken and diseased limbs and clean vegetation from beneath fruit trees. Products from Dr. Matthew’s apple orchards were shared.
- Following door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS’ ASSOCIATION**

### **Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

**Executive Committee Meeting** – Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
Public Library, 2:30 – 3:20 pm

**Present:** President David Baker, Katie Smith, Margaret Pace, Diann Nance, Delona Shockey, Extension Agent Karla Kean

**AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- The MCMGA treasurer’s report indicated an ending balance of \$8,646.56 as of October 1, 2008.
- The 2008 MCMGA projects were discussed and the decision was made to eliminate, as a MG project, the Extension Garden behind the UT Agricultural Extension Office. Other MG project possibilities discussed included the Senior Citizen site and an area under construction at the Veterans Plaza.
- MCMGA will pay the postage for postcards being sent to the MCMGA membership mailing list with reminders to support the October 11th MCMGA Plant Sale, scheduled from 9:00 - 11:00am at the Veterans Plaza.
- The MCMGA nominating committee will report on the slate of 2009 MG officers at the October MG meeting. Membership will vote on proposed Rules and Bylaws changes at this time.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

**Dates to Remember**

Sept. 2 – Nov. 18	Master Gardener Course	Tuesdays 6-9 P.M.	Extension Office	Karla Kean, Contact
Oct. 9	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Extension Office	TBA
Oct. 11	Plant Sale	9-11 A.M.	Veterans’ Plaza	TBA
Nov. 13	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Extension Office	Yvonne Hiatt, Holiday decor
Dec. 11	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Extension Office	Christmas/Graduation dinner
May 16, 2009	Don Shadow trip	TBA		

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and County Governments Cooperating. The Agricultural Extension Service  
offers its programs to all persons regardless to race, color, national origin,  
sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Karla’s Korner October 2008

Wow! Is it ever going to rain again? I am starting to feel like I might as well get used to living in a desert climate! Shall we grow cacti? This changing climate and the lack of water is something everyone has to think about these days. We want to have vegetable gardens, beautiful flowers and landscapes; but how do we afford to keep watering?

Next year, I will probably downsize the vegetable garden and buy items such as sweet corn from the local farmers rather than trying to grow my own. I have already given up planting a lot of annuals and have been watering frugally to keep my trees, shrubs, grasses and other perennials alive.

While drought conditions seem to have been alleviated in many previously stricken areas of the country, plant practitioners need to be aware that the negative effects of drought on plant growth and health may continue to be a problem for years to come. It is important to keep this in mind when evaluating the causes of plant problems. Remember from biology class that plants have vascular tissue (xylem) that moves water up from the roots and phloem that moves the photosynthate produced by the leaves back to the roots to feed the tree. Much of the phloem which is found just under the bark was destroyed by the freeze in Spring of 2007. Some trees and shrubs may live a long time on the starches stored in the roots and twigs but, eventually without new photosynthate, it will die. Many plants considered to be completely reliable in TN were killed outright; many others suffered extensive damage and are still suffering. The use of irrigation, mulch and protective insecticide applications will be especially important in the management of drought stressed plants. A thin layer of mulch, no deeper than 4 inches, will help conserve moisture and stabilize soil temperatures.



### Volunteer Opportunities

#### **A Valuable Volunteer Opportunity**

- What:** Tree survey of Clarksville's major roadways  
**Who:** Citizen Foresters, Tree Stewards, Master Gardeners  
All friends of urban forestry  
**When:** 3 consecutive Fridays, October 17, 24, 31; 8:30 a.m. to noon  
Alternate Saturday dates to be determined  
**Where:** Gather at Veterans Plaza, Pageant Lane side  
Drive to designated survey locations  
**Why:** 300+ volunteer hours needed to match tree inventory grant  
**Needs:** Workers for more than one date; volunteer driver  
Bring clipboard or sturdy writing pad, pen/pencil  
**Contact:** Dottie Mann, [dotmannclarks@aol.com](mailto:dotmannclarks@aol.com), (931) 647-8339

**Make a Difference Day-Clarksville's Block Party at Brandon Hills Heritage Garden: Saturday, October 25, 2008; 1:00 – 5:00pm; Corner of Glenn Street and Commerce Street, Clarksville TN.** The Extension and the Master Gardeners are requested to participate in Make a Difference Day event at the Brandon Hill Youth Heritage Garden. It will be an opportunity for you and your associates to tell the community about your programs. The Latina Association will provide refreshments and

music at the Garden on Saturday, October 25, from 1pm to 5pm, to will attract people to the Garden, where information about community services will be available. Feel free to bring people, flyers, posters, etc., to tell about your programs. Please bring your own tables, chairs, and equipment as needed. Health-related information is especially welcome. Other agencies interested in participating may contact me. Volunteers and donations are welcome. Contact: Beth Kasper 387-3715

**Things to do:**

October 9-10: Tennessee Farmland Legacy Conference at Montgomery Bell State Park in Burns, TN. Farmers, landowners and community leaders will have the opportunity to learn about protecting and growing today's farms for tomorrow's families and communities. Early Registration: Aug 1 - Sept 22;  
Farmer: \$25, Other: \$50; For more information contact: Tennessee Department of Agriculture-Jane Howell; Phone: 615-837-5104; Email: [Jane.Howell@tn.gov](mailto:Jane.Howell@tn.gov)

**RiverView Mounds Farm:** September 20, **Grand opening to the general public. Hours of Operation:** Mon, Wed, Fri: Group tours by reservation; Sat & Sun: 10-6; **Admission:** (includes hayride, corn maze & 1 pumpkin) 2 & under: free 3 & up: \$6  
RiverView Mounds Farm, 1715 Boyd Rinehart Rd  
Clarksville, TN, 37043, 931-206-9879  
[scarlettc@RiverViewMoundsFarm.com](mailto:scarlettc@RiverViewMoundsFarm.com)

**Patterson Place Farm  
Pumpkin "Cake" Contest  
Saturday, October 25..**

Cakes must be received by 11:00 am. Cakes must be home-made and contain 1/2 cup fresh, frozen or canned pumpkin. For more information contact Emily at 931-553-0639.

**Bell Witch Play-** Authentic Story of the Bell Witch written by David Alford and presented by Community Spirt. Production Dates are October 23, 24, 25, 31, and Nov. 1. All performances are at 7pm. Location is an open air pavilion at the Old Bell School Grounds 7617 Hwy 41N Adams, TN 37010. Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$8 for students. For more ticket and other information call 615-696-1300 or [bellwitchplay.com](http://bellwitchplay.com)

**Fairview Produce Auction-**Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays September through October 17, 10am-. Harold W. Eli-*Small Farm Program Assistant* Cooperative Extension Christian County 270-886-6328

**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><b>Project 1: Smith-Trahern Mansion</b> 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><b>Project 2: Adopt-a-Plot</b> (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><b>Project 3: Clarksville Police Department Headquarters</b> 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><b>Project 4:</b> Most residents of our community utilize <b>The Montgomery County Library</b>. Donated indoor plants provide a lush background for this quiet haven. Co-Chair is Janice Ledbetter, 552-4590, jledbetter123@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Project 5:</b> Our own <b>Agricultural Extension Center</b> 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><b>Project 6:</b> The <b>Master Gardener Hotline</b> 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><b>Project 7:</b> To keep pace with advances in technology the <b>MCMGA website</b> was developed to keep members up to date and informed. Co-Chair is Charles Fitzpatrick, 906-6408, cfitzpatrick@charter.net</p>
<p><b>Project 8:</b> As part of our monthly meetings the <b>MCMGA Garden News</b> was created to keep our membership informed. Contributions are welcome. Co-Chair is Diann Nance, 648-8701, diann@diannsgreenhouse.com</p>
<p><b>Project 9: The L &amp; N Railroad Station</b> is another of our city's historic sites. Located on 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Commerce, this landmark is used for weddings and picnics. Co-Chair is Jay Fangman, 645-3632, fangmanj@bellsouth.net</p>
<p><b>Project 10:</b> Every spring APSU invites the master gardeners to lead the campus residents in the <b>Paint-the-Campus-Red Day</b>. 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><b>Project 11: Habitat for Humanity</b> 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>