



# MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 4

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

April, 2009

## President's Message

Spring has finally arrived. It's been warm, sunny, rainy, snowy, frosty, and windy. Welcome to early spring in Middle Tennessee. Just a reminder to wait until there is no frost in the weather forecast. One gardener said to wait until the 20th at midnight to plant your tender annuals and the warm-weather veggies.

A big thanks to Delonia Shockey for a fabulous job in organizing and conducting the fourth Beginners and New-comers Short Course. About five or six years ago several of on the executive committee went to a Master Gardeners Training class at UT Knoxville. This is where we first heard about the benefits of conducting such a class for our local association. JoAnn Hackman brought it home and we were on our way.

The first year we had approximately thirty people in the class. We were amazed. Each year the class has gotten better and larger. This year we had seventy-two people who attended to learn the basics of gardening. Many of these people, new to our community, come from other climates and appreciate the tips on gardening here in Clarksville. It also introduces our local Master Gardening Association to the community. Many of the people in attendance will attend our Master Gardening Class in the fall. So many of you volunteered your time to assist Delonia. Thank you all. Don't forget to count your travel time, class time, and CEU credits.

*Tennessee State University, The University of Tennessee, USDA,  
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.*

## MCMGA OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITIONS 2008

President	Barbara Plechaty	931-358-9340	<a href="mailto:dogwood931@charter.net">dogwood931@charter.net</a>
Past President	David Baker	931-645-3020	
VP Program	Shan Smith	931-358-2536	<a href="mailto:shan@jackturner.com">shan@jackturner.com</a>
VP Project	Katie Smith	931-647-5893	<a href="mailto:kfs37042@hotmail.com">kfs37042@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Judie Treangen	931-906-2967	<a href="mailto:jjtreangen@charter.net">jjtreangen@charter.net</a>
Treasurer	Ann Langmack	931-553-2953	<a href="mailto:Lhar29@charter.net">Lhar29@charter.net</a>
Refreshments	Volunteers		
Historian	(position open)		
Newsletter	Diann Nance	93- 648-8701	<a href="mailto:diann@diannsgreenhouse.com">diann@diannsgreenhouse.com</a>
Website	Charles Fitzpatrick	931-906-6408	<a href="mailto:cfitzpatrick@charter.net">cfitzpatrick@charter.net</a>
Exten. Liaison	Karla Kean	931-648-5725	<a href="mailto:kkean@utk.edu">kkean@utk.edu</a>

### Treasurer's Report

<u>Beginning balance (checkbook) – March. 04. 2009</u>		\$10,896.56
Deposits: 3/4/09 Short Course	\$2,320.00	
3/14/09 Dues	60.00	
3/20/09 Short Course	70.00	
4/1/09 Dues	<u>20.00</u>	
Total deposits		<u>2,470.00</u>
		13,366.56
Debits: #1949 – Rent/Short Course	35.00	
1950 – Postage	18.90	
1951 – Gift card/past president	26.28	
1952 – gift card/MG mtg/speaker	<u>172.38</u>	
Total debits	(252.56)	<u>(252.56)</u>
Ending balance (checkbook – April 1, 2009)		\$13,114.00

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

## General Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2009

### Agenda Discussion Items:

Following the 6:30pm food and fellowship period. President Barbara Plechaty called the March MCMGA meeting held at the Extension Office to order at 7pm sharp.

- There were no corrections from the last months meeting minutes.
  - \$2,300 deposited for Mini Short Course, \$2,870 gross income and \$350 expenses
  - Treasure report had no corrections.
  - Katie Smith has the sign up sheets ready for volunteers to sign up to help the Co-Chairs
  - Discussed getting going green with ordering MCMGA water bottles
  - Charles Fitzpatrick has a link on the MCMGA web site to click on to see and print out the newsletters now. The bi-laws to be posted to the website.
  - Shan Smith has the sign up sheets for Don Shadows trip May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
  - The next meeting Shan Smith will have the Jackson trip, 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July sheets ready for sign up. Will also hold our monthly meeting on trip. Bus trip will be \$30 for members, \$40 for guests.
  - Jim Pugh announced he would be leaving the area in a couple of months to Oklahoma.
  - Shan Smith introduced Charles Moffit and he presented Wildflowers of the Appalachian Trail.
  - Meeting adjourned at 8pm
- Submitted by Judie Treangen

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting, Wednesday, April 1, 2009

*420 Madison St, C David Elliott Building, Conference Room 5pm – 6pm*

Present: Barbara Plechaty, David Baker, Shan Smith, Katie Smith, Diann Nance, Ann Langmack, Delona Shockey, and Judie Treangen.

### Agenda Discussion Items:

- New meeting time has been changed to 4:30pm to 5:30pm.
- \$1,000 cap of 4H Camp money
- Ann Langmack Treasury beginning balance as of 03/04/09 \$10,896.56 and as of 4/1/09 ending balance \$13,114.00
- Shan Smith said that Pete Reed told him the Composting Bins in for the people that won them as door prizes at the January meeting.

- Shan Smith will have the sign up sheets for the 5/16 Don Shadows bus trip, The bus trip price has been amended to \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided on bus.
  - Brian Garland, Manager at the New Lowes on Madison Street and his wife Melissa will be at the next MCMGA meeting with Melissa will do a presentation on Container Gardening.
  - There will be a bus trip to Jackson Celebration for our July 9<sup>th</sup> MCMGA meeting, the \$10 chair for trip was discussed, this is non-refundable, Shan Smith in charge of this.
  - Delona Shockey will be the new Co-Chair for the Moody Shade Garden at the AG Center.
  - Passage of Board minutes confirms items voted on at the Board meeting.
- Submitted by Judie Treangen

### **Dates to Remember**

April 9, 09	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	Brian & Melissa Garland, Lowes
May 14, 09	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	
May 16, 09	Don Shadow trip	6:00 A.M	Sango K-Mart	Shan Smith, contact
May 30	Plant Sale	TBA		John Matthews & David Neblett
June 11, 09	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	
July 9, 09	Sum. Celebration	TBA	Jackson, TN	Shan Smith, contact

\*Hosts: Debbie Johnson, Maria Shirel, Tery Simo

### **Karla's Korner    April 2009**

According to the National Weather Service a freeze warning is in effect from 11 pm EDT/10 pm CDT this evening and a freeze watch is in effect from Tuesday evening through Wednesday morning. Freezing conditions are expected with overnight lows in the upper 20's to near 30 Degrees F. Due to recent warm temperatures many plants and trees have already begun to flower and bloom and these potentially freezing temperatures could potentially harm tender young plants, flowering fruit trees and other crops.

A 'freeze warning' means sub-freezing temperatures are imminent or highly likely. These conditions will kill crops and other sensitive vegetation. A 'freeze watch' means sub-freezing temperatures are possible and these conditions could kill crops and other sensitive vegetation.

As fruit and flower buds progress from a fully dormant state to bloom, their ability to tolerate cold temperatures without damage or injury decreases. Each plant has a critical temperature which means that it has a certain temperature that buds, flowers or fruit will tolerate for 30 minutes or less before some type of

injury occurs. Depending on the type of plant, duration of freezing temperatures, and the hardening stage, flowers or fruit may exhibit various types of damage. For a list of those critical temperatures contact your local Extension office or go to <http://www.canr.msu.edu/vanburen/frost.htm>.

In Tennessee the last spring frost usually occurs between March 25<sup>th</sup> in Chattanooga and Memphis; and April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Nashville area, and April 10<sup>th</sup> in Knoxville. The actual frost date varies quite a bit from year to year. Climatologists recommend adding two weeks to the average frost date for your area before planting tender plants to protect them against the possibility of a late season frost.

Within the next three days in the Clarksville area, meteorologists are forecasting the possibility of night temperatures dipping into the lower 30's which means that sensitive plants such as tomatoes or small fruits and fruit trees in bloom will need to be protected from damage. The number one method of protection is prevention! Do not plant sensitive crops before the estimated frost free dates. If you do have sensitive plants out, you can protect them by covering them with straw, mulch, boxes or old sheets, blankets etc. Do not use plastic as the plastic may freeze to the leaves of the plant and cause damage. Commercial growers of high end crops such as strawberries and peaches have a more critical need to reduce damage and will have to use more intense methods such as overhead irrigation, fog or smoke clouds, wind machines or even heating to prevent freeze damage.

#### Upcoming Events:

April 13: Organic Crop Production Workshop, Ellington Agriculture Center-Conference Room, Central Region Extension Bldg.; 1:00 – 4:00 pm; No cost, but registration is required. Contact: Annette Wszelaki at 865-974-8332 or [annettew@utk.edu](mailto:annettew@utk.edu).

April 16 - 18, 2009 Rivers & Spires is an award-winning festival with live music, interactive entertainment, activities for the kids and great food on every street corner held in historic downtown Clarksville, TN.  
<http://www.riversandspires.com>

April 17 – 18: Agroforestry: Medicinal Plants and Mushrooms; TSU Cooperative Extension Program 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. (in the 'barn'); For more information or to register call 615-963-1827 or 615-963-5449.

April 24: The Gathering-Webinar meeting and field trip to Dotsonville area. Webinar topic this month is 'Public Policy'. Meeting location TBA. Contact Karla for more information.

May 16 – 17: International Southern Women's Herbal Conference; location TBA in Clarksville TN; Contact: Angelique Moss-Greer at 931-906-2792 or [www.regionline.com/iswhc09](http://www.regionline.com/iswhc09); <http://www.naturalchoicesbotanica.com>



[www.regionline.com/iswhc09](http://www.regionline.com/iswhc09); <http://www.naturalchoicesbotanica.com>

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

April 3, 2009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Upcoming Montgomery County TYN Workshops, contact:**

Karla Kean  
Horticultural Extension Agent  
931-648-5725  
kkean@utk.edu

**TYN Statewide Program and Trainer Workshop, contact:**

Ruth Anne Hanahan  
TN Water Resources Research Center  
865-974-9124  
rhanahan@utk.edu

**Montgomery County Selected to Pilot Homeowner Landscape Program**

Does your yard measure up? Local Extension agents and storm water professionals are teaming up to provide you with the guidance you need to ensure that your yard is a "Tennessee Yard Done Right." One that is beautiful, environmentally friendly and saves you money!

They are doing this through Tennessee Yards & Neighborhoods (TYN), a new program being piloted in five counties across the state by the University of Tennessee Extension, the Tennessee Water Resources Research Center and the Tennessee Valley Authority. This past week, John Doss-Montgomery County, TN Storm Water Coordinator and Karla Kean-TSU/Montgomery County Extension Agent, joined colleagues from Cumberland, Hamilton, Knox and Shelby Counties to attend a Train-the-Trainer Workshop at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville to become qualified TYN trainers.

According to Kean, she learned through the training what the pay-off would be for the homeowner participating in this program. "It is an attractive and healthy yard that will enhance your neighborhood while also helping to protect Tennessee's beauty and natural resources. And an added benefit by conserving resources, you'll save money on utility bills and long-term yard maintenance."

So stay tuned, for more information on the first upcoming Homeowner Landscape Workshop in Montgomery County. The workshop will provide guidebooks along with diagnostic tools including soil tests and rain gauges, all for only \$35.00 a person or \$50.00 per household! Plus the homeowner will receive a "yard" stick to help them measure their progress towards a "Tennessee Yard Done Right."

## MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS FOR 2009

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: <a href="#">Smith-Trahern Mansion</a></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: <a href="#">Adopt-a-Plot</a></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: <a href="#">Clarksville Police Department Headquarters</a></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 <a href="#">The Montgomery County Library</a>. 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 <a href="#">Agricultural Extension Center</a> has been landscaped to provide show for visiting speakers and organizations. Two areas that are maintained are the Roadside Garden and the Main Entrance Garden. Co-Chair is Jim Conatser, 553-8725, jim_conatser@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b>Project 6: <a href="#">The Agricultural Shade Garden</a></b> displays a variety of hostas and other shade-loving plants beside a walkway joining buildings at the Agricultural Extension Center. Co-Chairs is Delona Shockey, 326-5385.</p>
<p><b>Project 7:</b> The <a href="#">Master Gardener Hotline</a> 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 8:</b> To keep pace with advances in technology the <a href="#">MCMGA website</a> was developed to keep members up to date and informed. Co-Chair is Charles Fitzpatrick, 906-6408, cfitzpatrick@charter.net</p>
<p><b>Project 9:</b> As part of our monthly meetings the <a href="#">MCMGA Garden News</a> was created to keep our membership informed. Contributions are welcome. Co-Chair is Diann Nance, 648-8701, diann@diannsgreenhouse.com</p>
<p><b>Project 10: <a href="#">The L &amp; N Railroad Station</a></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 Diann Nance, 648-8701, dinance@bellsouth.net</p>
<p><b>Project 11:</b> Every spring APSU invites the master gardeners to lead the campus residents in the <a href="#">Plant-the-Campus-Red Day</a>. 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 Margaret Pace, 647-4328, pacem@apsu.edu</p>
<p><b>Project 12: <a href="#">Habitat for Humanity</a></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>