



MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 12

www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery

December 11, 2008

President's Message

(Holiday Wishes) I wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for each of you and your families. I hope Santa fills each request you placed on your wish list plus good health and happiness for the upcoming year.

(Class of 2008) Welcome to the class of 2008. Now that the book learning has been completed, the real thing begins. You will learn many things through your fellowship with other master gardeners during the upcoming year(s). The events planned for 2009 provide opportunities to learn, develop pride in our projects, and to form lasting friendships by your participation in the Montgomery County Master Gardeners Association.

(A Special Thank You) Thank each of you for the support you have given to me as your president for the last two years. I especially want to thank the officers and project chairs who have worked hard for the association.

(Perennials For Year-Round Interest) Here are a few perennials that perform well in the garden with only minimum care and their foliage, flowers or seedheads provide more than one season of beauty. (1) *Echinacea purpurea* - Purple coneflower - It's easy, it's beautiful and in the right location it will last for years. The influx of new varieties to the market in the last few years is amazing. A few favorites include 'Ruby Giant', 'Fragrant Angel', 'Sunrise', 'Sunset', and 'Tiki Torch'. Resist the urge to deadhead - the seedheads give you a second season of interest and the goldfinches go wild over them! (2) *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm' - Blackeyed Susan - Again, leave the seedheads on this one! They'll stand through most of the fall until the finches pick them clean. Most of the time they won't rebloom anyway, so learn to appreciate the ornamental value of those black cones. (3) Ornamental grasses provide texture and architectural value. For the sunny areas try *Sorghastrum nutans* 'Siouz Blue' (Indiangrass) and *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind' (Upright Switchgrass). For the shade try *Acorus gramineus* 'Variegatus'. (4) Yuccas and their kin. Gardeners either love them or hate them. Try 'Color Guard', 'Golden Sword', 'Bright Edge' and 'Garland Gold'. (6) For the shade garden you won't go wrong with the Lenten roses, *Helleborus x hybridus* There are several varieties available. (7) *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Variegata' - This for is a slow grower, rarely invasive and offers completely evergreen variegated foliage throughout the seasons. And (8) The heucheras, or coral bells have interesting foliage. Some of the best varieties are 'Carmel', 'Southern Comfort', 'Brownies', 'Mocha', and 'Citronelle'.

A QUOTE FOR THE MONTH - An unknown author is quoted as saying, "Happiness is where we find it, but rarely where we seek it."

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) – Nov. 5, 2008 **\$ 9,622.96**

Ending balance (checkbook) -- Dec. 3, 2008 **\$ 9,622.96**

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Public Library, 2:30 – 3:25 pm

Present: President David Baker, Katie Smith, Margaret Pace, Ann Langmack, Diann Nance, Delona Shockey

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Eighty-five MCMGA members and guests are anticipated to attend the December 11th MG Holiday Banquet. Meat and drinks will be furnished; members are to contribute other dishes.
- Jim Conaster and David Neblett will serve on the audit committee to review MCMGA books.
- The MCMGA treasurer's report indicated an ending balance of \$9622.96 as of December 3, 2008. The MCMGA \$20.00 membership fee is to be paid annually at the Association's January general meeting. A new list of MG membership will

be created at that time to establish postal addresses and to generate email distribution of MG information and newsletters.

- The decision was made to decline the F.U.E.L. Summer Community Garden as a MCMGA project. Membership may volunteer services to the agency ultimately sponsoring this program.
- Following discussion of funding for Habitat for Humanity landscaping project, it was decided to provide up to \$40 for purchasing a native tree for each Clarksville Habitat for Humanity home opening in 2009. Five Habitat Homes were opened in 2008. The possibility of obtaining additional funds through a matching grant will be examined. MG members may also donate selected perennials to each home.
- The 2009 MCMGA Mini Course has been scheduled for March 3, 10, 17 and 24 at the Madison St. Methodist Church. Cost will be \$40. Eight gardening experts are scheduled to present. Delona Shockey will chair this project.
- Monetary gifts will be presented to the two Extension Office secretaries in appreciation for their contribution to the MCMGA program. MCMGA members are again reminded to bring canned/non-perishable items to the December meeting for distribution to benevolent organizations.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION General Meeting Minutes – November 13, 2008

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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

- The October 2008 MCMGA minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved.
- MCMGA membership elected the following slate of 2009 MCMGA officers:
President, Barbara Plechaty
VP Programs, Shan Smith
VP Projects, Katie Smith
Secretary, Judie Treangen
Treasurer, Ann Langmack
- MCMGA membership is requested to complete the MCMGA 2008 Program Evaluation by the end of November. This form can be submitted on-line or by hard copy.
- Membership is invited to the November 18 Habitat for Humanity dedication. The home is located at 216 High St.
- The December 11th Holiday Banquet and Award Ceremony will include recognition of graduating members of the 2008 MG class, MG certification for MG 2007 graduates completing requirements and various levels of recognition of the current membership. Many guests are expected – bring a generous dish.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Supplies were provided for creation of holiday decorations from nature's materials including pinecones, dried flowers, berries, nuts and leaves. Yvonne Wheeler-Hiett demonstrated a variety of easily created decorations that could be assembled quickly. Linda Earp displayed numerous creations, including a tomato cage/pinecone Christmas tree. Following door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm. 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
Nov. 13	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Extension Office	Yvonne Hiett, Holiday decor
Dec. 11	Monthly Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Extension Office	Christmas/Graduation dinner
May 16, 2009	Don Shadow trip	TBA		

*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.*

Karla's Korner December 2008

What are you doing to be green for the holidays?

A fragrant, freshly cut Tennessee grown Christmas tree is one of the very best ways to celebrate the holiday season and what better way to show your greenness than to shop local? I cannot think of a better place for an evergreen to spend its formative years than on a Tennessee Christmas tree farm. Many different varieties are grown in Tennessee, including White Pine, Virginia Pine, Scotch Pine, Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce and Fraser Fir. Choosing a fresh Tennessee tree assures you that your tree has not traveled great distances and been cut for a long time. While getting into the habit of buying local you get a fresher product, save money on packaging and transportation costs while supporting the local economy.

You may choose to purchase a pre-cut, cut-your-own or a live tree. To increase the chances of a live Christmas tree thriving in your landscape long past the holidays select

one that is native to your area. Plan on bringing your living tree indoors no more than a week before Christmas, and put it back outdoors right after Christmas. If you live in an apartment, or don't have room in your yard for an evergreen, check into the option of donating it to a local park or children's center after the holiday. If you opt for a cut tree, try to locate a lot that sells trees that are locally grown, and always recycle the tree after the holidays. Cut trees can be recycled into mulch or used for fish and wildlife habitat after the holidays (be sure to remove all tinsel and ornaments).

What you can do to fulfill your holiday needs while making the least impact on the environment?

- Send e-cards to loved ones who have computers. That way you can send holiday greetings and pictures while showing your love for the planet.
- Don't opt for paper or plastic---use a reusable (locally made) shopping bag.
- Make an effort to see where your products are made and if at all possible buy American!
- Recycle and reuse wrapping paper, tissue paper and gift bags.
- Whenever possible, purchase gifts made from recycled materials or from retailers that support eco-friendly businesses.
- Purchase wooden ornaments or other gifts created from local wood-turners or artisans.
- Consider making an eco-aware donation on a gift recipient's behalf this year such as purchasing and planting trees.
- Cut back on your Christmas lighting and/or switch to energy efficient LED lights. You can save up to 90% on your energy costs that way.
- Use good energy conservation practices in your home by monitoring your use of the oven, controlling how long you leave the refrigerator door open or simply turning the lights off.
- Don't buy more food than you can eat. Share extra with a local charity or soup kitchen.
- Going green is an everyday commitment, but you can make a start during the holidays. Give a gift to the planet and everyone who lives on it by being ecologically conscious

Local Christmas Tree Growers:

[Lazy Spread Christmas Tree Farm](#), 3682 Dailey Road, Clarksville, TN, 37042

[Erin's Farm](#), 5816 Hodges Rd, Cunningham, TN, 37052

[Kirkwood Tree Farm](#), 3792 Buck Road, Clarksville, TN, 37043

[Santa's Place](#), 2175 Dunbar Road, Woodlawn, TN, 37191

Or go to Pick TN Products-<http://www.picktnproducts.org> to find Christmas tree growers in your county!

2007 Graduates Receiving Official TMG Certification:

Sue Albright

Herman Albright

Lela Donahoo

Kelly Galbraith-pending

Phil Greenawalt

Mary Ann Marks

Shan Smith

Judie Treangen

Carolyn Watson

Diana Woodson

Verified 2007-2008 Recertification's:

Sharon Baggett-5 Year & recertification
David Baker
Jan Black
Ginny Bryant
Aprile Cacal
Ron Churchill-recertification + Lifetime
Charles Cook
Ron Cooper-recertification + Lifetime
Jim Conatser
John W. Davidson
Ruth Davis
Linda Earp
Charles Fitzpatrick
Allen Gilbert
Carol Goode
Leon Gordon-5 Year & recertification
Diana Griffin-5 Year & recertification
Sandy Janus-5 Year & recertification
Colleen Johnson
Debby Johnson-5 Year & recertification
Ann Langmack
Janice Ledbetter-5 Year & recertification
Gene Moody
Joy Moody
Ladiola Moore
Diann Nance-recertification + Lifetime
David Neblett
Margaret Pace
Barbara Plechaty
Jim Pugh
Tina Ramsey
Katie Smith
Julie Stephenson
Eunice Sumbler

Class of 2008 (receiving attendance certificates):

John Anderson	Elizabeth Kasper
Janelle Bagley	Martha Levardson
Ralph Brown	Belinda Lyle
Tiffany Catchim	Carolyn Lyle
Tim Catchim	Pam Peters
Christine 'Cricket' Channell	Lianne Rollins
Penny Darnell	Diana Ruby
Tina Dunlap	Debra Smith
Crystal Emmons	Rick Warman
Carol Groppe	Terri Young
Stanley Groppe	
Randall Hampton	
Jan Hodgson	

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: 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 2: 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 3: 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 4: 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 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: 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 Diann Nance, 648-8701, dinance@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>Project 10: 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 11: 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>