



MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERSASSOCIATION.COM

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2/10/2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Master Gardeners! It seems like time is flying by this year. Spring is just around the corner! First of all I would like to thank our January guest speaker, Janet Coleman. Secondly I would like to thank all of our members for giving so much back to our community. Thanks to all of those who signed up for the Hospitality schedule. We really do have a phenomenal group of members! I would also like to thank Colleen Teet for setting up the buffet and beverage tables. I've decided that on our meeting days I can cheat on my diet! You all can cook so well! I haven't tasted anything I didn't like. Thanks to all the executive board members. We have a dynamic team of people this year!

Margaret Pace will be updating us on the APSU "Plant the Campus Red" event. I would like to sincerely welcome our February guest speaker, Dr. Dwayne Estes with the Department of Biology at APSU. He has some very interesting material he will be presenting to us on the flora of Tennessee. He will be bringing his family so let's all make them feel welcome! Don't forget that 2011 membership dues are being collected. Door prizes are always appreciated! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the February meeting!

**"Optimist: A man who is chased up a tree by a lion but enjoys the scenery anyway."
Walter Winchell**

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Montgomery County Master Gardeners Association

General Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2011

The minutes were approved and the treasurer's report passed.

Melinda Grimes, Colleen Teet, and Tina Dunlap are now co-signers for checks. The treasurer's audit has been completed.

Janet Coleman was the speaker from the Natural Resource Conservation Society (NRCS) in Houston County. The NRCS works with the Soil Conservation Board; the Conservation Reserve Process (CRP); promotes quail habitat; helps install cattle waterers; works with anyone with an erosion problem; as well as participates in the Houston County Fair. Janet invited the Montgomery County Master Gardeners to consider having a booth at the Houston County Fair. Information regarding the fair can be found at www.houstoncofair.com or by calling Robin Freeman at (931)289-3242 or by contacting Janet at janet.coleman@tn.usca.gov. Other programs were listed on a handout available through the extension office.

Some Tips From Carl Herbinson

Middle Tennessee Region

By Carl E. Herbinson

FLOWERS

February may well challenge January's position as the coldest month. Its average temperature is seldom noticeably higher, snowstorms are frequent and thaw periods rare.

But at least the days are slowly growing longer, and when the sun does begin to shine, each day is warmer than before. Early spring bulbs, especially snowdrops, may come into bloom when planted on the sunny side of a heated foundation wall.

During the latter part of the month, set out transplants of hardy annuals such as sweet William, pansies, calendulas, sweet alyssum, violas, poppies and forget-me-nots. Sow seeds of nasturtiums directly in the garden where you want them to grow. Choose annuals that will continue blooming the longest. Hybrid petunias, Rocket hybrid snapdragons and Tel-star hybrid dianthus are exceptional for their ability to continue blooming after the weather warms in late spring. Perennials that may be set out now in sunny areas of the garden for late-spring and summer color are yarrow, coreopsis, purple coneflower, lantana, 'Indigo Spires' salvia, cannas and blue plumbago.

Any Valentine flowers received during this month can be kept fresh by adding water to the vase when the arrangement arrives and checking it daily. If they're in a box, snip an inch off each stem, remove leaves that will be below the water level of the vase, arrange and enjoy.

TREES AND SHRUBS

While studying the arrangement and interrelationship of the plant material in your naked landscape, you may discover areas that need more balance. This doesn't necessarily mean that you need to match plants in pairs, but rather fill in open areas with plants along the same lines or families. Example: a small growing evergreen and a larger growing variety opposite each other. This gives you differences in height and a slightly different color variation.

Get an early start on spring and plant as

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much plant material during this month as you possibly can. Trees and shrubs installed during this period will begin growing as soon as the weather warms enough for bud break. Soil temperatures below the surface of the soil line at a depth of 4 to 5 inches usually stay around 50 to 55 F during this month. This is an ideal temperature for the roots to begin growing to help support new growth.

Apply fertilizer to all deciduous trees this month. I recommend a 10-10-10 all-purpose, complete balanced granular fertilizer. This type is less expensive than slow-release or controlled-release fertilizers. For young immature trees I would recommend about one-half pound per year of age of tree applied to the area under the branches. On larger mature trees apply about one-third of the fertilizer beyond the drip line.

Finish pruning fruit trees as soon as possible this month. Flower buds are already set on last summer's growth, so re

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Agricultural Extension Service
The University of Tennessee 

The purpose of the Association shall be to support and engage in the projects and activities which will foster horticulture related activities or any projects and activities which it may deem to be advisable to engage in and which will enhance the quality of life of the residents of Montgomery County, Tennessee, and all such projects and activities shall be in cooperation with the Extension Service, University of Tennessee.

member to leave some growth for flowers and fruit. Apply a recommended dormant spray if you haven't done so already. Spray only when the material will dry before it freezes and before the buds begin to swell.

CONTAINER PLANTS

Spring is just around the corner and our houseplants know the days are slowly getting longer. Many will start a spurt of growth when they realize this is happening. When you see this growth, help them out by increasing your fertilizer applications to full strength. Use a water-soluble fertilizer each time you water. I like to use a slow-release fertilizer such as Osmocote once the weather breaks in the spring.

Continue to keep a close eye on your indoor plants for insects like spidermites, scale and mealybugs. There are several new insecticides on the market for controlling insects indoors. Also available is a potting soil that contains a systemic insecticide that will help control insects from the roots upward through the stems and into the leaves. If you find you still must spray, try using an insecticidal soap. I like to spray houseplants when I can take them outside on a warm day and then bring them back indoors as soon as the spray material dries.

GROUND COVERS AND LAWNS

In our area of the region, crabgrass can be a major problem in our lawns. Apply pre-emergence herbicides if your lawn has a history of crabgrass and other summer weeds. Treat the lawn before seeds germinate. Watch the yellow forsythias in your neighborhood.

Crabgrass seeds usually begin to germinate shortly after forsythia blooms. Try to treat the

lawn before blossoms appear and when daytime temperatures reach 65 F for four or more days.

The level of control often drops if pre-emergence herbicides are not activated by watering (one-half inch) or rainfall within about seven days after treatment.

Ground covers should be fertilized as soon as they start to show new growth. Use a controlled-release fertilizer such as 12-6-6 according to label directions. Remove any leaf litter that has collected in your ground covers from deciduous trees over the winter months.

VEGETABLES

All through the winter months you should have been making plans for your vegetable garden. Now is the time to put that plan to work. Order the seeds you have on your list and always try some novelties, especially from last year's All-
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Karla's Korner

February 2011

2011 sure is off to a busy start! I have enjoyed a few lazy, snow days though I will have to admit; however, now I am ready for spring. I attended several meetings in January that really gave me spring fever! I know it is too early to plant, but it is not too early to think about what to plant. It will soon be time to plant cool-season flowers and vegetables in the garden and get seeds warm-season started for planting in April and May. If you need more information on this and other topics go to www.utextesion.edu, click on publications and then select the appropriate topic from there.

We had a Garden of Hope planning meeting this week and are off to a good start with that project. More information will be coming soon on how to volunteer or to adopt-a-plot. We will continue toward our objective of providing local produce to food banks in Montgomery County and will need many volunteers throughout the growing season to make this project a success. If you would like to volunteer for this project or just find out more information please contact Mary Ann Marks at 931-362-3466.

I will also continue to work with the Brandon Hills Heritage Youth Garden this summer and volunteers will also be needed once or twice a week on a regular basis there to work in the garden and/or to provide mentoring to community youth.

The Master Gardener Plant sale will be held in conjunction with the Green Thumb Festival this spring. May 7th is the date and activities will be held at the Habitat ReStore on Madison Street. Please contact me if you would like

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Montgomery County Master Gardener Association

Executive Committee Meeting – February 2, 2011

420 Madison St, C David Elliott Bldg. Conference room 4pm to 5:30pm

All Committee members were present .

Melinda passed out an agenda for the meeting as well as an income and expense worksheet. Melinda stated that the budget is based on last year's budget, with some cuts.

Donations were discussed. Barbara commented that a past president had a passion for 4H and that is how we came to donate to 4H. Empty Bowls/Fuel (Fuel is a program to fill backpacks with food for children to eat on the weekend. Empty Bowls is the primary fund raiser for Fuel) program Melinda suggested that we may want to exchange donations to empty bowls with using garden of hope plots to provide food. Karla stated that we're going to have a cool garden and sell food at Habitat Restore. She further stated that we would have to get membership approved.

Melinda discussed the Green Thumb Festival which is with the Habitat Restore on the 1st Saturday in May – May 7th. Judie interjected that that is the same day as the trip to Grow Wild and the plant sale.

Regarding the trees that were donated to the extension agency, Karla mentioned that Habitat for Humanity wants shade trees, and most of what was donated are evergreens. Karla also said that March would be a good time to plant trees

Barbara suggested that Melinda and Colleen not try to take on all of the projects, that members need to get involved.

Karla said that Green Thumb wants to know if we'll do the brochure for all of the participants. Barbara said that David does our posters and brochures at cost. Melinda said she did not think we should do the brochure for Green Thumb. All board members agreed. Karla mentioned that we need to get speakers for the Green Thumb event. She mentioned Diane Nance and David Neblett, at the next meeting ask for speakers. Karla said there will be a half page ad in the Leaf Chronicle listing all participants for Green Thumb. The application needs to be in by March 5th. Melinda said the application will be in tomorrow.

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***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 2011

President	Melinda Grimes	931-206-5807	melindagrimes@live.com
Past President	Barbara Plechaty	931-358-9340	dogwood931@charter.net
VP Program	Colleen Teet	931-326-5899	colleen37142@yahoo.com
VP Project	Terrie Young	931-302-3387	Terrieyoung@lycos.com
Secretary	Diana Ruby	931-801-0770	dlynnr@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Tina Dunlap	931-358-9860	tdd7000@gmail.com
Refreshments	Volunteers		
Historian	(position open)		
Newsletter	Judie Treangen	931-906-2967	jjtreangen@charter.net
Website	Phil Greenawalt	931-906-2967	plgreenawalt@charter.net

2011 – MASTER GARDENER/MONT. CO., TREAS. REPORT

Beginning Balance (per checkbook) 01/01/2011 \$ 9,680.13

Debits --

#2051 01/13/2011 Colleen Teet - Supplies Jan. Mtg. \$ 55.19

#2052 01/13/2011 Mo. Co. Extension - Jan Postage 25.98

Credits

01/19/2011 Deposit - Dues 460.00

Ending Balance as of 01/31/2011 \$10,058.96

Dates to Remember

Date	Event	Time	Location	Program/Contact
Feb 10	MG Meeting	6:30PM	AG Center	40 YRS of Tenn Flora Dr Dwayne Estes

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

Community projects, such as the one pictured above at the Police Headquarters (#3), 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.

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.

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.

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-Chairs are Phil Greenawalt and Judie Treangen, 906-2967, plgreenawalt@charter.net.

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.

Project 5: Our own Agricultural Extension Center 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-Chairs are Jim Conatser, 561-0929, jim_conatser@yahoo.com and Ruth Davis 551-9819, rdd22@earthlink.net

Project 6: The Agricultural Shade Garden displays a variety of hostas and other shade-loving plants beside a walkway joining buildings at the Agricultural Extension Center. Co-Chair is Ruth Davis, 551-9819, rdd22@earthlink.net.

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

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 Phil Greenawalt, 906-2967, plgreenawalt@charter.net.

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 Judie Treangen, 906-2967, jtreangen@charter.net.

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 Diann Nance, 648-8701, nance.d@cdelightband.net.

Project 11: Every spring APSU invites the master gardeners to lead the campus residents in the Plant-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 Margaret Pace, 647-4328, pacem@apsu.edu.

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, debbj@hotmail.com.

Melinda discussed the possibility of having a Junior Master Gardener Group at one (some) of the schools. Karla said that she already has her schedule of activities outlined for this year and that that is not included in her schedule. Karla also told us that the Junior program is a 1-2 year activity and is more intensive than the adult master gardener program.

Melinda asked about having a tree steward course. Karla said not this year.

Melinda discussed having a plant sale in summer. Barbara talked about the plant sale in the 3rd week in April, that we can put baskets together with different plants and sell them that Linda Earp could do a good demonstration and that people attending Green Thumb could put baskets together.

Melinda discussed marketing. It was agreed that we should open that to the members and see who might be interested in heading that.

Melinda discussed that some of her goals were to get youth and APSU professors (and students?) more aware/involved with Master Gardeners.

Barbara said that we had talked about doing the short courses one year, skipping it the next year and doing the garden tour. Karla said we could do Saturday 1/2 day workshops instead of short course. Barbara suggested that we put that out to the membership. Melinda said we don't want to get rid of the short course. There was a consensus that we do not want to skip having the short course. Diana moved to keep the short course on the schedule every year. Judie seconded it. All agreed.

Barbara stated that Don Shadows is not a good money maker. – That it's a good deal for Master Gardeners but that it's not money maker.

Colleen said we have to get the church for the short course. She'll get the paperwork to the Methodist church Friday. She still wants to be involved with the short course as much as possible. She'll meet with Sue Albright at 8:30 AM Friday to discuss the short course. They have already agreed that they need to change the schedule to 8 speakers vice 10 speakers that they had last year. Karla will give the 1st class, giving an overview of the 4 day course, followed by a class. Terrie asked if we were going to advertise. Colleen said we will put out flyers. Colleen said we need to get people lined up for speakers. Judie suggested Tracy Jackson, and Brian from Lowes and his wife. Terrie suggested having a class on small water features. Barbara said she would help with M.C.ing the course. Diana will help in a support role. Barbara also mentioned Chris Robinson, Tina Ramsey for landscaping, Linda Earp for Container Gardening, Roger Pile and Jim Wilard for Soil and Composting.

Colleen got confirmation that the short course will cost \$40.00 per person. Karla interjected that the short course equals 8 CEUs for anyone that then takes the winter school.

Karla talked about the winter school coming up February 24-26th. Barbara, Karla, Colleen, Tina, & Melinda will attend. The conference hotel is the Clarion and the cost is \$65.00 per night.

Karla discussed the Garden of Hope. Mary Ann Marks is the lead with the project. Karla would like the Master Gardeners to take it on as an official project. Colleen Johnson is also very involved with it. Tina put the project to vote, Judie 2ndd it, passed by consensus making the Garden of Hope an official project of the Master Gardeners. Barbara asked for some kind of signage to designate where the driveway is.

Karla talked about encouraging members to spend 5 of their volunteer hours on one of the ongoing projects. Melinda put to a vote to change the bylaws to require members to spend 5 volunteer hours on an ongoing project. Barbara proposed it, Diana 2ndd it. It passed by a consensus.

Barbara talked about having the Project Chairs talk about what they do. Karla said she has slides to show when the Chairs do their talks.

Melinda said that Dr. Dwayne Estes is the February speaker, he is a volunteer. He'll speak on Tennessee Flora. He'll be bringing his family. Colleen said she would give him a gift card.

Judie said that March would be a good time for the Project Chairs to give their presentations. Colleen said she has all the speakers for the year lined up except for June and July. Brian and his wife, from Lowes, were suggested as speakers.

Tina mentioned that dues are due. Melinda will announce it at the February meeting. Tina stated the account balance is currently \$10,059.96. Melinda stated that she is continuing to work on the budget.

Melinda said Judie should ask Margaret Pace to talk regarding Plant the Campus Red.

Barbara and Tina talked about the Master Gardeners becoming a non-profit. Tina is researching the requirements. Barbara talked about how it would be beneficial to not have to pay sales tax when purchasing supplies and door prizes. Karla said there is a center for non-profit web site. Karla said we can get a tax exempt number for that purpose. The meeting adjourned

