



# MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

WWW.MONTGOMERYCOUNTYMASTERGARDENERSASSOCIATION.COM

Volume 17, Issue 3

3/10/2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Master Gardeners'! Spring is just around the corner. The Buttercups and Crocus are blooming and all the little sprouts are starting to pop up. Time to break out the rake and mulch those beds! I have placed surveys at your tables. We would love to hear from you. The surveys will be anonymous so you don't have to worry about adding a name. Also, we need immediate attention addressed to our congress. They are trying to cut our extension agencies which offer so much. Please take the time to share what you have gained from the extension office. It seems that they would rather disregard our local farmers and substitute them with agriculture from outside countries. Our 4-H programs have been drastically reduced and our local farmers are suffering. We will have forms for you to sign if you wish and we will make sure they are mailed.

I would like to thank our speaker Dr. Estes for a very interesting speech last month. I would also like to thank our hospitality committee for all your efforts! Thank you to all our members for their dedication. Don't forget that Master Gardeners' will be responsible for volunteering at least 5 hours on any of the Master Gardeners' Projects. You can find details on all of these including our newest project, the Garden of Hope, in the newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying this mild weather. I also hope everyone is as excited as I am to get outside and get dirty! The Green Thumb Festival is coming up so set aside any of those sprouts or plants you wish to sell. I look forward to seeing you soon!

### ***Inside this issue:***

Meeting Minutes	2
Organization Info	3
Tips from John Matthews	3
Karla's Korner	4&7
Officers & Treasurer's Report	5
Dates To Remember	5
MG Projects	6
Tips from David Neblett	8
Message from Beth babbitt	8
Executive Minutes	9

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**Montgomery County Master Gardener Association**

*General Meeting Minutes - February 17, 2011*

The following changes were made to the minutes:

From: Karla stated that we're going to have a cool garden and sell food at Habitat Restore.

To: Karla stated that we're going to have a cool garden in the Garden of Hope and sell that food at Habitat Restore

From: Karla mentioned that we need to get speakers for the Green Thumb event.

To: Karla mentioned that we need to see if any of the Master Gardeners would like to be speakers for the Green Thumb event.

From: Barbara, Karla, Colleen, Tina & Melinda will attend.

To: Barbara, Karla, and Tina will attend.

With these changes, the minutes were approved and the treasurer's report passed.

Amending the bylaws to require 5 volunteer hours to be participation in ongoing Master Gardener projects was discussed, proposed, and passed.

The Garden of Hope project was outlined by Mary Ann Marks and signup sheets were circulated.

The Paint the Campus Red project was outlined by Margaret Pace and a signup sheet was circulated.

Melinda suggested that Master Gardeners review the listing of ongoing projects in the MCGMC Garden News and contact the listed points of contact for more information and for participation.

Karla sent out a commercial horticulture newsletter today.

There will be a workshop the last Saturday of each month sponsored by the Cheatham, Dickson, or Montgomery County extension agent. All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend. More information on when, where, and costs will be coming.

Land Ownership will be the subject of a workshop April 8th taught by Karla at the Montgomery County extension office.

Melinda circulated an announcement regarding free horse manure, green or aged. Points of contact are Becky and Ron Brown, 1100 Oak Plains Rd, 931.362.2798 or cell 931.237.2703. Please call to see when they are available to load it for you.

Colleen discussed the refreshment signup sheet and asked that people get all the months accounted for.

She thanked everyone for bringing door prizes.

Colleen also discussed a letter that for master gardeners to use when soliciting businesses for door prizes. It was made available to the Master Gardeners.

Flyers for the March Short Course were made available for Master Gardeners to pick up and post. The course will be from 6:30 – 8:30 PM beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers who will help work the door or set up the room are asked to be at the United Methodist Church at 5:30 PM on the first night. All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the short course and they are exempt from paying the class fee. The classes will count as education credits. Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring seed or nursery catalogs or garden magazines that you no longer want; these will be for the Short Course attendees to take, if desired.

If you know of a speaker for the monthly Master Gardener meeting, please notify Colleen.

Colleen introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Dwayne Estes, who discussed "Recent Discoveries of New Plant Species in the Flora of Tennessee".

Melinda and Colleen passed out door prizes.

The meeting adjourned

**Business Name**

Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail:

**www.montgomerycounty  
mastergardenersassociation  
.com**

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.

## Tips from John Matthews

### Exciting New Hydrangeas

When people think of hydrangeas they usually think of the large flowered, so-called mophead species ( *Hydrangea macrophylla*). Who cannot like the blossoms in great abundance in varying shades of blue to pink depending on the soil pH (acidity or alkalinity)? But coming on strong in popularity is the species *Hydrangea arborescens*, known as the smooth hydrangea. The blossoms of this native species are white and not affected by the soil pH like the mopheads. A popular selection of this species has been the beautiful ‘Annabelle’ which is an early summer flowering cultivar that is sometimes called a “snowball” shrub. Other noteworthy white selections are ‘Hayes Starburst’ and ‘White Dome’ which have flower structures and some other characteristics different from ‘Annabelle’. A new cultivar released about three years ago is a white flowering hydrangea called ‘Incrediball’ which was hyped as having larger flowers than ‘Annabelle’ and also stronger stems which have less tendency to flop over. One season of this cultivar in my garden indicates that this is actually an “improved” Annabelle and not just hype. However, the most excitement today in smooth hydrangeas includes the pink flowered ‘Invincible Spirit’ which came on the market two years ago and the lavender-pink cultivar known as ‘Bella Anna’ which will be available this year at garden centers. Both of these new pinkish cultivars are the result of plant breeding efforts and the color of the flowers is not affected by soil pH just as the natural species. All these hydrangeas are pretty easy to grow and require minimum maintenance. More information can be found online (search Google) or email me at [jmatthews1030@charter.net](mailto:jmatthews1030@charter.net).

John Matthews

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# Karla's Korner

Karla's Korner March 2011

Yay! Spring is just around the corner! We have had just enough warm weather to give everyone cabin fever! There are plenty of things to do in the garden right now, just don't get in too much of a hurry to put those tomatoes out! Our "frost-free" date in Tennessee is May 1<sup>st</sup> although it is fairly safe to put out warm-season plants by around April 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are an early-bird, just be prepared to cover those tender plants in case we get a late spring freeze. Right now you are safe to plant just about all coolseason crops as long as you can get to your garden through all the rain and mud.

Barbara Plechaty, Tina Dunlap, Terrie Young and I attended the Tennessee Master Gardener (TMG) Winter School in Murfreesboro on February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Rutherford County Extension and Master Gardeners once again served as most excellent hosts for TMGs' statewide leadership conference. We attended the teaching track on Thursday and Friday which addressed empowering volunteer educators to develop effective teaching and presentation skills. As Extension faces more cuts and as the TMG program grows, it is imperative that the MG volunteers take on a bigger role in teaching. Now, don't let that scare you off! "Teaching" can be carried out through a number of venues and not just in a classroom or lecture type setting. Maybe you feel more comfortable working one-on-one with adults or youth in a garden setting or giving a walk-n-talk through the forest or garden. Making a display and answering gardening type questions at a fair, garden center or other event is also a way of teaching. Hopefully, next year we can enter a display about our Montgomery County programs! I really enjoyed the one-on-one time with "the gal's" and look forward to next year! Remember, "Life Long Learning is the Key."

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

"Eat the Rainbow" Spring Adventure with Local Housing Areas

Time: Activities 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm (set-up at noon, tear down by 4pm) each day

Locations: Community Centers at Lincoln & Summit; TBA at Caldwell

March 22: Lincoln Homes

March 23: Summit Heights

March 24: Caldwell Lane

April 26: Lincoln Homes

April 27: Summit Heights

April 28: Caldwell Lane

This program will be held in cooperation with Extension TNCEP & EFNEP nutrition programs. Master Gardener activities will include painting 3-gallon nursery pots, filling with soil and planting lettuce (1 pot/family). The children then take the pots home and grow lettuce. In April, we will come back with tomato plants ("Rainbow's End" variety) for each family that takes a pot home.

I will need volunteers who can be there on the dates listed as well as some pre-painting of pots which can be determined on your own schedule. I am going to get 3-gallon pots and some spray paint and bring them out here to the office sometime the week of March 7 -11. If you can come out and spray paint pots, please let Karla know.

(continued pg 7)

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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) 02/01/2011 \$10,058.96

Debit --

#2053 02/17/2011 Montgomery County Extension - Feb. Postage \$ 22.40

#2054 02/17/2011 Colleen Teet - Feb. Mtg,Door Prizes, Gift Card 80.54

Ending Balance as of 02/28/2011 9,956.02

## **Dates to Remember**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program/Contact</b>
Mar 10	MG Meeting	6:30	AG Center	Monarch Butterflies/Dabney Haugh

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# MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

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.

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, debtj@hotmail.com.

Project 13: The Garden of Hope grows and distributes fresh produce to local food banks for distribution in our community. The early garden begins in March. The spring/summer garden begins in April/May. The work days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7-10am and 5-7pm. Co-Chair is Mary Ann Marks 362-3466, mary2694@bellsouth.net

## MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE TRAINING/SIGN-UP

Two training dates, March 15th & March 17th, from 9am - 10 am are offered for those interested in volunteering for the MG Hotline. The Master Gardener Hotline will be open on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9 am - 2 pm beginning in April and ending around October. Community members have the option to call or visit the Extension office or email questions to askmastergardener@yahoo.com. For more information or to sign up for the training, contact Karla at kkean@utk.edu or 931-648-5725.

### GARDEN OF HOPE COOL-SEASON PLANTING DAY-MARCH 19, 2011

Time: 9:00 am - until plants are in the ground and mulched

Location: 860 Hornbuckle Road, ClarksvilleTN

<http://maps.google.com/maps>

Take Hwy 76 toward Exit 11/Adams; just past the interstate, make a left on Hornbuckle Road; go about a mile and be watching for a brick mail-box on the left; pull in the drive and follow the road to the back field where the garden is located.

Other: Bring your own gardening tools, gloves etc.

Bring extra newspapers for mulch.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### LAND OWNERSHIP 101 WORKSHOP

Friday, April 8th, 2011 9 am - 3pm

Montgomery County Extension Office

931-648-5725

Cost: \$10/person Lunch Provided!

Have you recently bought 5, 10, 30 acres or so? Now what are you going to do with all that land? Do you want to raise animals? Garden? Raise produce to sell?

In this workshop, Area Farm Management Specialist, Jerri Lynn Sims, Horticulture Agent, Karla Kean and Extension Specialist with the Center for Profitable Agriculture, Megan Bruch, will provide the answers to your questions! In addition, representatives from TDA, TN Farm Fresh, Grow 10 and others will have displays and information available.

### HOW TO GROW HEALTHY PLANTS AND VEGETABLES AS PART OF TSU COMMUNITY GREENING AND HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

It is that time of year again, to start gardening, and we are going to show you how. Every member of the TSU community and interested public are welcome to join TSU Gardening Support Program. Once a week (every Friday) we invite you to join us for a "Green Bag" lunch time session to answer your questions about all aspects of gardening and learn the art and science of growing plants. Also, we will provide soil analysis and recommendations on fertilizer usage, watering, soil amendments and selection of plants for your garden. If you want, you can bring a cup of soil or soilless substrate from your garden or pot (see the note below).

WHEN: Every Friday beginning Feb. 18, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

WHERE: Farrell-Westbrook Auditorium

TSU School of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences-Nashville

\*Note: If you are bringing soil, bring in the top 6 inches of the soil. The soil needs to be dry without any plant materials. Make a note of the spot where you took the soil sample. You may bring more than one soil sample. **For more information: Dr. Dharma Pitchay- Tel: 963- 4890 Dr. Jason de Koff - 963-4929**

# Tips from David Neblett

Asparagus is a vegetable that most people either love or hate. Before you haters move on to the next section, know that fresh asparagus is very different from the canned or the stale grocery store kind.

Asparagus is one of the few vegetables that are a perennial in the garden. A well prepared bed can be expected to yield for at least 15 to 20 years. Besides it can be a beautiful ornamental for your landscape.

Do not worry about the literature that tells you how much work it takes to properly prepare a bed for your asparagus. It will grow well in good garden soil. I even had a volunteer to come up and produce well in pure hard clay soil.

There are several varieties of asparagus available. Mary Washington is the old standard, but new hybrids are much better. Jersey Knight is one of the best and does well in clay soil.

Asparagus need lots of sunlight and a well drained site. My bed is in the very center of my garden so I always have to plan around it.

There are two ways to start with asparagus. The first is to buy one year crowns at a garden center. The second is from seed.

With crowns most people work up a strip of ground to plant in.....make a trench about eight inches deep....spread out the roots of asparagus and cover with about 2 inches of soil. They then pull extra soil in to fill in the trench as the asparagus grows throughout the season.

With seed I recommend planting them in some of your old one gallon pots "one seed per pot" with potting soil so you can take good care of them the first year. In the second spring prepare your soil and plant as you would other perennials.

With crowns you can harvest a few weeks in the second year...With seed not till the third year. Each year, you can increase your harvest a few weeks up to about 10 weeks of harvest. Stop harvesting before the stalks get smaller than a pencil width.

Weed control is the number one key to success. I used a Roundup type product on my bed about March 1 of each year (use only when dormant) and apply Preen over the top at about the same time to control weeds.

David Neblett

## Message from Beth Babbit concerning the Master Gardener Website:

If you are having problems entering your hours on the website and you receive an error message please send an email to Beth ([ebabbit@utk.edu](mailto:ebabbit@utk.edu)) with the following information:

- The "url" copy and paste it in to the email
- Your Full Name & Contact Information
- Copy and paste the error message into the email

If you have forgotten your username &/or password, contact your county agent!

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**Montgomery County Master Gardener Association**

***Executive Committee Meeting – March 2, 2011***

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

Present: Melinda Grimes, Colleen Teet, Barbara Plechaty, Tina Dunlap, Terrie Young, Phil Greenawalt, Judie Treangen, Karla Kean and Diana Ruby

Agenda Discussion Items:

Melinda called the meeting to order.

Regarding the budget, Melinda stated that we aren't doing the Empty Bowls project. She also brought to the committee's attention that she included \$1000.00 on a line for projects that will be for any workshops or classes that we give where we supply materials.

Judie made a motion to pass the budget as amended, Diana seconded it, and all were in favor, the motion carried.

Melinda proposed having the business portion of the Master Gardener meeting after the speaker gives their presentation. Barbara raised a concern that we might lose attendance at the end of the evening. After some discussion it was decided to leave the meeting format as it stands.

Melinda talked to the issue of making the change to the bylaws to include 5 hours of work on Master Gardener project(s). All present agreed. It was decided to include the following line between the existing first and second paragraphs under "Article V Membership":

All active members shall be required to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours to any Master Gardener approved project (s) in each calendar year.

Tina made a motion to pass the change to the bylaws, Judie seconded it, and all were in favor, the motion carried.

Terrie brought up the issue that all project managers need to speak to the Master Gardeners, giving time and dates when select events are worked as well as general information about the project. Karla said she would put together a slide show that can be viewed while the project chairs make their presentations.

Karla said we would need a project chair for the shade garden at the extension agency starting in April. Diana volunteered to be project chair. Colleen said she would help with the work.

Tina gave the treasurer's report. Dues taken in February amounted to \$460.00. The balance in our account as of this date is \$10,416.02.

Colleen stated that the speaker lined up for March is Dabney Haugh, who will speak on the Monarch butterfly. Colleen stated that the short course was canceled due to lack of participants as well as the fact that the article written for the Leaf Chronicle never made it to print.

Colleen and Linda Earp are working on a plan for giving a Beginners and Newcomers class on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The idea is that there will be several speakers during the course of the day, it will be held at the extension office library as well as in the Master Gardener meeting room. The class will be limited to 100 people. Bags with goodies in them will be given out at registration, classes will be given in the morning, a noon meal will be provided (paid for by the attendees), and classes will continue in the afternoon. Colleen has an email from Stacy Leiser from the Leaf Chronicle who is interested in seeing that an article goes in the paper about the Beginners and Newcomers class as well as the Green Thumb project.

After some discussion, it was decided that the Executive Committee would meet on Tuesday, 8 March at 4PM to discuss the Beginners and Newcomers class.

Karla registered for Green Thumb today. Karla had a standard letter for Melinda to sign stating that there is no discrimination in the MCMGA for reasons of gender, age, race, etc.

Karla created a Master Gardener Administrator Facebook Page enabling all committee members to make postings. Terrie suggested including an FAQ tab, which Phil said he would create a link on the Master Gardener Website to include.

Karla also handed out a cheat sheet to show the committee how we can include contact information when completing our hours.

Karla finished by saying there are over \$800,000 in cuts that will be made to the University of Tennessee's budget and suggested that an announcement be made to write our congresspersons with regard to what the Master Gardeners have done for the community and for us personally. Barbara suggested that a form letter might be a better idea. Karla said she would prepare the form letter and have copies available at the Master Gardeners General Meeting.

Barbara told Colleen that David Baker would print 1000 postcards to be used for Master Gardeners.

The meeting adjourned.

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