



MCMGA GARDEN NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 11

www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery

November 13, 2008

Oh, Christmas Tree! Oh, Christmas Tree!

At the November Master Gardeners meeting be **GREEN** as Yvonne Hielt shows us how to decorate the Christmas Tree at the Extension Office with nature.

Please bring a glue gun with extension cord, scissors, and/or clippers, any dried materials, any small Christmasy ceramic or plastic statuettes to glue on the top of pinecones, i.e., deer, elves, flowers, etc. (Please bring decorative items that you do not want back.)
If you have questions, call Yvonne a 647-8848.

President's Message

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

(2009 Officers) Our nominating committee offers the following slate of officers for 2009: President - Barbara Plechaty, 1st Vice President - Shan Smith, 2nd Vice President - Katie Smith, Treasurer - Ann Langmack. **WE NEED A NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY.** If you can serve in that capacity give me a call at 624-5711. We vote on November 13. Nominations can be offered from the floor during the November meeting also. Officers must be Tennessee Certified Master Gardeners.

(Plant Sale) A special thanks to each of you that made our October plant sale a great success. We sold over \$ 1000.00 dollars worth of plants. The bulk of the sales took place in under an hour.

(Propagate Annuals) Now is a good time to propagate your favorite annuals, such as geraniums. You can make an easy "propagation pillow" using a bagel or bread bag. Fill the bag with vermiculite, make three rows of three cuts each about 1 inch long, moisten the vermiculite by filling the bag with water, close with a twist-tie and allow excess water to drain out the cuts. Then cut 9 short stem sections (3 to 6 inches), making each cut about 1/2 inch below a node. Strip lower leaves, dip stems in rooting hormone and stick each stem about 1/2 inch into the bag. You can place the bag on top of the

refrigerator, which acts as a heating mat. Check the bag every few days and add water when the bag feels lighter. After 3 weeks gently tug on the cuttings. If you feel resistance, there are roots. Slice the bag apart and gently tease the cutting out of the vermiculite. Transfer cuttings into pots of fast-draining potting mix, water thoroughly and put them in a sunny location.

(Garden Journal) Keeping a garden journal can be very helpful. Some gardeners use a computer spreadsheet to enter the plant name, date purchased (acquired), source, date planted, location in the garden, size and cost. After the growing season performance notes can be added. Another method (a little more old-school), is to use a binder. Each time you purchase (acquire) a plant or seeds, print the plant specifications from the internet. Put the sheets into the binder along with sheets for notes. Yet another approach is to use index cards. You can use catalog photos, internet photos or your own digital snapshot. Make notes as needed and keep the cards in a card box. You will note that I use the word acquire, since many master gardeners obtain many plants by sharing with each other.

(Plants and Your Mood) It's not just your imagination - plants really do affect your mood. In a recent study, people who worked in offices with plants and windows reported that they felt better about their jobs and the work they performed than people who didn't. Get out of the houseplant rut and try the following: (1) **Peacock plant** (*Calathea makoyana*). Bold oval shapes on a background of sweeping stripes make this one a head-turner. Give it lots of humidity; leaves turn brown at the tips if they're too dry. (2) **Ti tree** (*Cordyline fruticosa*). This woody, light-loving houseplant sports strappy leaves with brilliant color. Most houseplant varieties grow 2 to 6 feet tall, and propagating is easy.

A QUOTE FOR THE MONTH - William James is quoted as saying, "Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense, dancing".

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) - Oct. 1, 2008	\$ 8,646.56
Debits - \$ 85.60 (card mailings, 3 mos, Ext)	\$ 8,560.96
Deposits 12.00 (June plant sale)	
<u>1,050.00</u> (fall plant sale)	
Total	\$ 1,062.00
Ending balance (checkbook) - Nov. 5, 2008	\$ 9,622.96

Montgomery County Master Gardener Survey (certified MG's)

Karla is in the process of evaluating our program here in Montgomery County and would like to ask that you take a few moments to fill out this survey. The time it takes you to complete the survey may be counted as volunteer time.

You have two choices:

Fill out the hard copy at this month's meeting and return to Karla, or access the survey on-line at

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=6FhGGvbGb5n9ckEYt551GA_3d_3d

The password is: MCMGA (ALL CAPITAL LETTERS)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Executive Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Public Library, 3:30 – 4:20 pm

Present: President David Baker, Linda Earp, Katie Smith, Margaret Pace, Ann Langmack, Delona Shockey

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- The MCMGA treasurer's report indicated an ending balance of \$9622.96 as of November 5, 2008. The October MCMGA Plant Sale generated \$1050.00. A

committee will be appointed in December to conduct the mandatory annual financial audit in January.

- Thanks to Diann Nance who will serve as co-chair of the L & N Railroad Station MCMGA project.
- Funding for Habitat for Humanity landscaping projects was discussed. No one recalled appropriating funds for this project. MG minutes from the past two years will be thoroughly reviewed for further action at the December meeting. A quick glance through previous MG meeting minutes reflected MCMGA provision of expertise and labor only.
- MCMGA has been invited to participate, along with other community volunteers, in an F.U.E.L. Garden & Market project involving the maintenance, harvest and distribution of vegetables planted by a local farmer. Mike Bradbury, whose farm is located near Exit 11, has offered the use of 10 acres of his land, machinery, seeds and plants at no expense. This project is in the planning stages and will involve numerous community groups. MCMGA will be amenable and open to future projects.
- April 15 was established as the cutoff date for submitting MG membership dues. After this point, postcards and information will only be sent to those with current membership.
- The November MG program, conducted by Yvonne Wheeler-Hiett, will be creating holiday decorations from nature's materials.
- The MCMGA December 11 holiday dinner meeting will honor the graduating members of the 2008 MCMGA class and their guests. MG funds will provide meat, drinks and ice. Members are asked to provide other covered dish items. Lowes gift certificates will serve as Christmas door prizes. Members are again reminded to bring canned/non-perishable items for contribution to benevolent organizations.

Respectively submitted by Margaret Pace

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDERS ASSOCIATION General Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2008

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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

- The September 2008 MCMGA minutes and treasurer's report were read and approved with a balance change of the treasurer's report to \$8,646.56.
- A get-well card to Sharon Baggett, currently in Vanderbilt Hospital, was circulated for signatures.

- Proposed changes to the MCMGA Rules and Bylaws were approved by membership vote.
- The nominating committee presented the following 2009 slate of MCMGA officers:
 - President, Barbara Plechaty
 - VP Programs, Shan Smith
 - VP Projects, Katie Smith
 - Treasurer, Ann Langmack
 The secretary position is still open for membership nomination.
- MG members were urged to have plant donations available by 8:30 am for the October 11 MG Plant Sale at the Veterans Plaza.
- MCMGA is unable to fulfill Northwest High School's request for assistance at this time.
- Numerous MG members volunteered to provide assistance to the cookie project supporting the December 6 County Christmas activities.
- MG volunteers are needed to assist and ride with Tree Board members to identify location of hazardous trees in Clarksville.
- Ken Tidwell, area tree farmer and member of Montgomery County Forestry Association, was named Tennessee's 2008 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.
- OCTOBER PROGRAM: MG Jim Pugh demonstrated the process of creating Hypertufa garden art. It is recommended to work outdoors in a well-ventilated area with this medium. After molding the mixture on the form, allow the stone planter to set up for 48 hours and to cure for 4 weeks before using. The three major ingredients are Portland Cement, Peat Moss and Perlite. Supply lists with hypertufa recipes and relevant web sites were provided.

Following door prize drawings, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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

I want to begin by thanking you all for your patience and diligence with our online reporting system. As you become more familiar with the process, I think you will realize how easy it will make the task of keeping track of your hours throughout the year. Please continue to keep track of your contacts throughout the year as this aspect will be added to the online system by next year. This is so that we can show how many people are provided with information from Master Gardeners throughout the year. It is really amazing once you start looking into the numbers and see how many people the volunteers are reaching each year. I will plan to have a full report ready for the December meeting where we will also recognize those completing the course for 2008, newly certified Master Gardeners, Lifetime (10years), 5-Year and VIP volunteers.

November Gardening Tasks:

- Rake leaves and make leaf mold or compost
- Clean, sharpen, and oil garden tools.
- Start forcing bulbs like paper-whites, hyacinth and amaryllis for the holidays
- Add organic matter to beds
- Cover compost so that rain doesn't flood and leach the nutrients
- Keep weeding
- Keep watering trees and shrubs until the ground freezes
- Protect your roses by mounding soil around the crown and covering the bud union. Tie down climbing rose canes to protect them from cold winds.
- Clean up garden debris and cut back and remove any diseased or infested foliage.
- Protect evergreens from deer damage by circling with stakes and burlap.
- Protect young trees from mice damage by wrapping wire around the bottom portion of the trunk
- Protect plants from vole damage by not mounding mulch too close to the plant
- Get those bulbs into the ground NOW
- Drain and store hoses
- If you're planning on buying a live Christmas tree with the intention of planting it this winter, dig the hole now, before the ground freezes. Remember to keep the soil covered, so that it too does not freeze and can go back into the hole.

Upcoming Events:

November 13th-15th: The 2008 Summit for a Sustainable Tennessee; Nashville. <http://www.sustainabletn.org>; Presented by the Tennessee Environmental Council, Tennessee Conservation Voters, and Greener Tennessee, this year's Summit will build upon the foundations established in 2007, bringing together voices from across the spectrum including government, business, nonprofit, higher education, communities, and individuals to develop a clear, comprehensive, and action-oriented conservation agenda for the state.

November 21st: The Gathering of Homestead Entrepreneurs-Field trip to off to Todd County KY where we will see beautiful farm land and entrepreneur enterprises of all kinds. You need to register by calling 931-648-5725. Those who want to carpool; we will leave from the Smith Trahern Mansion at 8:15 am.

The 10th annual Christmas on the Cumberland at the RiverWalk

The official Lighting Ceremony will be held November 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. The event hours are Sunday- Thursday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. through January 1, 2009. The event is free.

Downtown for the Holidays

December 6th, 4:00 to 9:00pm. A holiday event with music, dancing, children's activities and more. Immediately following the Clarksville Jaycee's Annual Christmas Parade. Admission is free. Held in downtown Clarksville, from Public Square to Millennium Plaza.

Clarksville Trees of Christmas

Nearly 20 Christmas trees will be decorated and displayed throughout the Smith-Trahern Mansion. Open house: Sunday, December 7, 2008, 2:00pm - 5:00pm. Weekday hours: 9:30am - 2:00pm. Admission: \$2 adults, children are free.

Save the Date

March 22-26, 2009: International Master Gardener Conference

“New Frontiers” in Horticulture and Gardening

Welcome to the *fabulous* Las Vegas. <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc>

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 Jay Fangman, 645-3632, fangmanj@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 Philene 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>