



MCMGA

GARDEN NEWS

Volume 15, Issue 11

www.utextension.utk.edu/mastergardeners/montgomery

November 2009

President's Message

Can you believe the holidays are upon us? I am not ready, are you? Prior to our November meeting our Christmas tree will have been assembled complete with lights. Our M.G. elves are Colleen Teet, Colleen Johnson, Eunice Sumbler, and Tina Dunlap.

Our program will be directed under the talented duo of Yvonne Hiett and Linda Earp. These gals are so very talented, and we are so very lucky to have them both. Ornaments for our trees is what we will be creating. Ladies, bring you scissors.

The guys will be sharpening tools under the eye of long-time Master Gardener, Tracy Jackson. So bring those garden tools you would like to have sharpened. Thanks Tracy for joining us.

We will select a slate of officers for next year. Your candidates are

President	Barbara Plechaty
VP, Programs & lots more	Shan Smith
Secretary	Judie Treangen
2nd VP, Projects Co-Chairs	Terrie Young & Diana Griffin
Treasurer	Tina Dunlap

If you would like to serve or would like to nominate someone from the floor, we would all welcome those nominations at the meeting. Those selected will be installed at our January meeting.

Janice Ledbetter and I would like to thank all who answered Janice's call for help to replant at the library. Those volunteers were Mary Ann Marks, Carol and Stan Groppe, Diana Griffin, Joanne Hackman, Colleen Teet, Carl Papenfuss, and Penny Donahoo.

Thanks to all of our Master Gardeners who have been helping Karla with the garden of hope and other projects. I noticed a thank-you in the *Leaf Chronicle*. You all make me proud to be a Master Gardener.

Our meeting next month will be our Christmas Banquet and graduation of the class of 2009 and presentations of pins and awards. Meat, rolls and drinks will be provided by the association. Please bring side dishes, salads, or deserts to complete our meal. Lots of door prizes and good fellowship await. We will also be collecting canned goods and staples to be our gift to Loaves & Fishes.

Happy Thanksgiving, ya'll.

*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	dogwood931@charter.net
Past President	David Baker	931-645-3020	
VP Program	Shan Smith	931-358-2536	shan@jackturner.com
VP Project	Katie Smith	931-647-5893	kfs37042@hotmail.com
Secretary	Judie Treangen	931-906-2967	jjtreangen@charter.net
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

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

General Meeting Minutes – October 8th, 2009

Agenda Discussion items:

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

- Correction to the Presidents notes 11-07-09, 10am Delona Tree planting and also potting correction to the Library Planting 10-31-09.
- Approved previous minutes and it carries.
- Treasurer report, \$12,774.80, it carries and it approved.
- Eunice Sumbler, and Margaret Pace reported that Tina Dunlop to ran for Treasurer and Terrie Young and Diana Griffin to ran Co-Chairs for VP Projects. You can nominate someone or yourself also.
- Volunteers Colleen Johnson, Eunice Sumbler and Tina Dunlop to put lights and decorate the Christmas Tree for the Christmas Dinner Meeting.
- Linda Earp to bring the meats, the MG members to bring a salad, side dish or desserts for the Christmas party.

- Remember to bring in dry goods and canned goods for Loaves and Fishes at Christmas Dinner Meeting.
 - Katie Smith VP Projects just reported on the potting of the Library plants on 10-31-09 at 10am.
 - Karla Kean reported on some activities for opportunities for hours and CEU's.
 - David Baker brought in the MG Rosters.
 - Shan Smith reported on ordering short T-shirts with our MG logo in Forest Green to be ordered. T-shirts will be \$10 and also to order Water Bottles.
 - Jim Pugh was here in Clarksville visiting and was nice to see him at the meeting.
 - Many thanks to Margaret Pace for the beautiful fall decorations on all the tables at the meeting, very festive, job well done.
 - Karla Kean did a presentation on Tree Selection, Planting, Pruning and General Maintenance.
 - Reminder door prizes still needed.
 - Barbara adjoined the meeting a little after 8pm
- Submitted by Judie Treangen

2009 – MASTER GARDENER/MONT. CO., TREAS. REPORT

<u>Beginning balance (per checkbook), September 30, 2009</u>	\$ 12,664.80
Debits: # 1969 - Barbara Plechaty, folders for directory	\$ 291.87
1970 – Lowe's, gift cards/door prizes/holiday party	200.00
1971 – Mont. Co. Ext. - 4H Scholarships, 2009	1,000.00
1972 – David Baker,printing,directories,bylaws	<u>142.90</u>
	(\$1,634.77)
	11,030.03
Deposits: 10/02/09 – plant sale; dues; misc	692.02
	11,722.05
plant sale -	622.02
repay cash for sale -	50.00
dues (for 2010 year) -	20.00
misc. -	<u>.02</u>
	692.02
<u>Ending balance (per checkbook), November 4, 2009</u>	\$ 11,722.05

Dates to Remember

Date	Event	Time	Location	Program/Contact
Nov. 12,09	Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	Linda Earp, Yvonne Hielt, and Tracy Jackson-- Yules and Tools. Election of Officers
Dec. 10,09	Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	Graduation and Christmas Party Bring sides and/or desserts
Jan. 14, 10	Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	Karla Kean
Feb. 11,10	Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	TBA
Mar. 11,10	Meeting	6:30 P.M.	Ext. Office	TBA

*Hosts: Maria Shircel, Herman and Sue Albright

Montgomery County Master Gardener Association

Executive Committee Meeting – November 4th, 2009

420 Madison St C David Elliott Building, Conference Room 4:30pm – 5:30pm

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

Agenda Discussion Items:

- MGMGA computer to be updated with Microsoft 2007
- Treasury Report Balance as of Nov 4th, \$11, 722.05 and approved by board
- Ann & Barbara to pickup tree for Delona in Guthrie KY, Thurs, 11-5-09
- Karla Kean needing pictures of your projects emailed to her
- Shan Smith got the green water bottles and T-shirts ordered with our MCMGA Logo. Ordered 150 of the water bottle and 60 T-shirts of various sizes
- Yules, Linda Earp and Evonne Wheeler- Hielt and Tools, Tracy Jackson to do the program for the Nov 12th MG Meeting, Don't forget to bring your tools to be sharpen.
- Shan Smith to get the meat, rolls and drinks for the Christmas party for our December meeting. And the MG member to bring a side dish and desserts. Remember there will be an additional 30 people from the New MG Class.
- We will stay with the gallon pitchers for our drinks at the MG Meetings.
- David Baker to get best price on a sound system for our MG Meetings, will order if the price is still \$249.00
- Karla working on the VIP List, working on the certificates, and name tags, etc for the Christmas meeting.

- Reminder that dry goods and can goods are needed for Loaves and Fishes, please bring to the Christmas meeting.
 - Reminder still needing door prizes for our meetings.
- Submitted Judie Treangen

Karla's Korner

November 2009

Planting Bulbs and Bulb-like Plants

I have been getting a lot of inquiries about how to plant bulbs and if it is too late this year to plant. As long as the ground is not frozen, plant on! You would be better off getting them in the ground now than trying to wait until spring. Bulbs need a chilling period so that they will produce beautiful flowers in the spring. Most bulbs and bulb-like plants are perennials that have a period of growth and flowering followed by one of dormancy. This dormancy is an adaptation to demanding annual cycles that limit growth during particular portions of the year. These plants can endure unfavorable conditions, such as limited water or sun, and use the food stored in the bulb or similar structure to grow and flower when conditions are favorable.

Bulb Biology 101:

First, you need to know that there are several types of storage organs:

Bulb: a large, modified bud with a vertical stem and leaves crowded into the almost spherical body. (Tulips, Daffodils, Lilies, Narcissus, Amaryllis)

Corm: a solid, vertical, swollen stem; new corms develop annually from lateral buds. (Gladiolus, Crocus, and Autumn crocus)

Rhizome: a modified, horizontal stem in the soil or on the soil surface. (Calla Lilies, Cannas, Bearded Iris, Water Lilies)

Tuber: tuberous roots of plants such as Dahlia and Caladium lies just below the soil surface and have part of an old stem at one end. (Dahlias, Begonias, Caladiums, Anemones)

Cultural Requirements:

Bulbs prefer a well-drained soil in full sun, although bulbs of woodland origin prefer partial shade. Heavy, wet soils should be amended by digging in organic matter such as peat moss, aged manure or compost. You can also supplement poor soils with a 1-2-1 ratio fertilizer. Bonemeal can be added right into the hole as you plant bulbs and will not burn the roots like nitrogen will. After flowering, allow foliage to die back naturally; do not "knot or tie" leaves together as this reduces their ability to photosynthesize and store food in the bulb (for next year's growth).

Digging, Drying and Storage:

Dig, dry and store tender bulbs such as Gladiolus, Dahlias, and tuberous Begonias in November. You may ask, "What is a tender bulb?" The term "tender bulb" refers to plants which have fleshy storage structures (bulbs, corms, tubers, and roots) which are killed by the cold winters if not brought indoors.

Plants with tender bulbs, corms, tubers, and roots are valuable additions for the home gardener to use in the perennial border, cutting garden, or as bedding plants. Because of their tender nature these plants require special attention, such as digging and

bringing the fleshy storage structure into a warmer area for storage through the winter months is required. Most tender materials should be dug after the foliage dries up or is killed by frost.

For all bulbs it is important to loosen the roots gently with a fork or spade, digging several inches back from the base of the plants so that the roots are not cut off unnecessarily. Avoid cutting, breaking, or "skinning" the fleshy structure. Diseases enter through cuts and bruises very readily and can cause rotting and losses in storage. When gladiolus corms are dug in the fall, they should be separated into well developed corms, to be stored for replanting, and poorly developed corms that the gardener may want to discard. The newly dug corms will have cormels that are pea size formed around the top of the old corm. The remains of the old corm will be directly beneath the newly formed corms. When the corm is cleaned up and the old stem removed, the growing point of the corm will be evident. The cormels can be saved and replanted in the back of the garden until they reach flowering size.

Some plants are best washed gently with a hose (e.g., dahlias). One technique that is used by some growers is to put hardware cloth (or a large mesh screen) across the top of a large garbage can and set the clump of bulbs on the hardware cloth or screen and wash the soil into the garbage can. Then, the curing period should be relatively brief. Short-term curing or drying period should be 1 to 3 days, depending on temperature. It should be done in a room or area away from direct sunlight or drying winds. Long-term curing, for gladiolus, tigridia and oxalis, should be approximately 3 weeks. Drying and curing temperatures for such materials should be 60 - 70 degrees in a dry, well-ventilated area. Before storing corms inspect for insects or diseases.

It is important to remember to label stored plant material carefully. In the case of gladiolus and similar materials, this is easily handled by placing the corm in a small paper bag which has been properly labeled. Larger materials, like dahlias or canna, can be handled in several ways. One technique that works quite well is to write directly on the fleshy root with a permanent felt marking pen. If this is done on large clumps the cultivar name should be written on several roots rather than on just one, because in storage occasionally a root is broken off of the main clump. "Tree labels" of the wood-and-wire type work very well for labeling. In all cases cultivar name and/or other important identifying characteristics should be written on the label and also recorded in a notebook or in some other way. Many a prized or favorite plant has been lost because of poor labeling.

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Upcoming Events:

November 13 &/or 14: 3rd Annual Sustainable Summit, Lebanon, TN:
www.sustainabletn.org

November 13th: E-Commerce Gathering Meeting & Tours; "Filling Your E-Commerce Toolbox". Meet at 8 am to carpool from the Smith-Trahern mansion. For more information or to sign up, contact Martha Pile at 931-648-5725 or mmpile@utk.edu.

November 20th: Sustainability Webinar "Energy". 9:00 am at the Public Library. For more information or to sign up, contact Martha Pile at 931-648-5725 or mmpile@utk.edu

November 29th: Lylewood Inn at Riverside Farm Bed & Breakfast Christmas Open House 12:00-4:00 pm. We are opening our home to kick off the holiday season. Decorated in holiday cheer, the Lylewood Inn will be open to you for unguided tours as

you shop for your holiday gifts. Bring a friend or a bus load. All is free except your purchases.

December 5th: Downtown for the Holidays, Downtown Clarksville. Activities surrounding lighted Christmas trees. Activities begin at 4:00 pm. Parade begins at 5:00 pm

December 6th: Trees of Christmas Open House "*ALL WRAPPED UP IN CHRISTMAS*"; 2:00 – 5:00 pm at the Smith Trahern Mansion, 1st & McClure Streets, Clarksville. Other Tour Dates: December 1st – 4th and 7th – 11th, 2009.

January 28-30, 2010: The 2010 Tennessee Horticultural Expo at the Nashville Airport Marriott. This year, the Tennessee Agritourism Cultivating Farm Revenue Conference will join the Expo activities. Contact: <http://www.tnthe.com/THE/Welcome.html> or (865) 974-0280

Tree Planting at Delonia's



Master Gardeners gathered in Delonia's Garden on a beautiful Saturday, November 7, to plant a redwood tree in her memory.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS FOR 2009

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.

<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-Chairs are Phil Greenawalt and Judie Treangen, 906-2967, plgreenawalt@charter.net</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. 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</p>
<p>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-Chairs is Ruth Davis, 551-9819, rdd22@earthlink.net.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>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 Charles Fitzpatrick, 906-6408, cfitzpatrick@charter.net</p>
<p>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 Diann Nance, 648-8701, diann@diannsgreenhouse.com</p>
<p>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, dinance@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>