



Master Gardeners hear it...

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

UT Extension Service The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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April 2007

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

President's Letter

April has to be the one of the most exciting months of the year for any gardener. Nature is about to burst forth, pollen and all. (Did I mention lots of pollen?) Daffodils, Bradford Pears and Forsythia have teased us in March. We know spring is about to happen...full blown. First, we start nonchalantly checking our plants daily, impatient for new growth. Then we proceed to talk to them, whispering encourage-

ment, maybe whining just a little. However, the reward for our diligence is catching the beauty of the first buds. No matter how many times this is repeated we never grow tired finding something new and green in the garden. Even weeds get a small reprieve in our admiration of Mother Nature!

April is such a happy time of year. So, what better time for the Intern Master Gardeners to join our great group of Mas-

ter Gardeners. We are all in a good mood! So, on behalf of all the Master Gardeners, I would like to extend a big "dig in the dirt" welcome to our Intern Master Gardeners! I hope everyone will attend their graduation ceremony at this month's membership meeting April 19th.

~Stephanie Payne

[See page five for more events for the month of April!](#)

April Master Gardener Meeting, April 19th, 6:30pm

The April Membership Meeting will be held the **Chester Frost Park Pavilion** (this is the large enclosed pavilion at the far end of the park) at 6:30 p.m. This meeting is a Graduation Celebration

and Banquet Picnic for the New Class. A group picture will be taken on the lawn. New Class members can bring their spouses. Bring a lawn chair for extra comfort. Come and meet our new members. Three,

five and ten year awards will be given. All Master Gardener's should bring a large side dish. We expect well over 100 people. The meat, dessert and drinks will be provided, thanks to Kelly Walker.

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Nancy Ralhan's Enchanted Garden.

Upcoming Events

•**April 1st, Chattanooga Market opens**, 12-5 at First TN Pavilion

•**April 12th, Master Gardener Board Meeting**, 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**April 7th, Potato Planting** at Crabtree Farm, 9-noon. Joel Houser will instruct volunteers on how to plant your own potato patch through interactive demonstration in our potato beds on the Urban Farm. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as old work shoes and clothes. Children welcome! Activity appropriate for kids 10 and older. Register by phone 493.9155 x16. Free Activity.

•**April 13th, 14th, and 15th Spring Wildflower Festival & Native Plant Sale** at Reflection Riding Choose from hundreds of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers all for sale. Call 821-9582 for more information.

•**April 19th, Master Gardener Membership Meeting**, 6:30 at Chester Frost Park Pavilion

•**April 21st, 8-1pm and April 22nd, 12-4pm. Crabtree Farm's 7th Annual Spring Plant Sale.** Offers a wide variety of vegetable starts including heirloom tomatoes, herbs and annual flowers. Call 493.9155 for directions or more information.

APRIL 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Chattanooga Market Opens	2 6-9pm Turfgrass	3 9-noon Turfgrass	4	5	6	7 Potato Planting
8	9 6-9pm Landscaping	10 9-noon Landscaping	11	12 6:00 Board Meeting	13 Plant Sale	14 Plant Sale
15 Plant Sale	16 6-9pm Pruning	17 9-noon Pruning	18	19 6:30 Membership Meeting	20	21 Herbal Class Plant Sale
22 Plant Sale	23	24	25	26	27	28 Herb Class
29	30					

Upcoming Events Continued

•**April 21st, Spring 2007 Herbal Theme Gardens at the TN Aquarium Auditorium**, 10-12. Karen Creel of GadenChick.com will discuss herbal garden themes including a medicinal garden, relaxation garden, tea garden, and others. \$20/Member; \$25/Non-Member. To register call 267-FISH.

•**April 28th, Natural Herbs Seminar**, 9:30-1pm at Crabtree Farms. Growing Kitchen Herbs & Cooking With Herbs! In this two-part training, you will learn how to

grow culinary herbs like rosemary, oregano & sage in your own backyard. In the Crabtree Farms kitchen, you will learn to create flavorful dishes with these fragrant herbs. Cost: Member:\$35 Non-Member:\$40. Register by phone 493.9155 x16

Starting April 28th-May 19th; Tennessee Strawberry Festival. LOCATION: Dayton, TN: Downtown Dayton. For more information, visit their website <http://www.tnstrawberryfestival.com>

Upcoming Events

•**May 3rd, Master Gardener Board Meeting**, 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**May 5th, 2007 Food Bank Plant Sale**, 10:00am-4:00pm.

•**May 6th, Spring 2007 Spring Ladyslippers and Woodland Gardens TN Aquarium** 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Join Tennessee horticulturist Christine Bock to see dozens of exquisite ladyslippers in their native habitat on this protected site on the back of Lookout Mountain. We will also tour the gorgeous native flower gardens of professional Atlanta garden designers Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Stewart who artfully blend cultivated and native species with perfectly selected yard art to create their naturalized woodland gardens. \$10/Member; \$15/Non-Member

•**May 11th, Fruit Crops - Farmer For a Day, at Crabtree Farm** 9:00am-Noon. This informal training features an introduction to working with fruit crops such as strawberries, blueberries or blackberries. Joel Houser, Crabtree's Farm Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to maintain crops. He will share his growing knowledge, from cultivation to harvesting. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). Register by phone 493.9155 x16. Free event.

MAY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:00 Board Meeting	4	5 Plant Sale
6 Wood-land Class 2-4	7	8	9	10	11 Fruit Crop Class 9-12	12
13	14	15	16	17 6:30 Member-ship Meeting	18	19 But-terfly Class 10-12
20	21	22 Com- posting 5:30-7	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Upcoming Events Continued

•**May 17th, Master Gardener Membership Meeting**, 6:30 at the AG Center

•**May 19th, Spring 2007 Butterfly Gardening TN Aquarium**, 10:00am-Noon. Learn how to attract butterflies to your own yard using both flowers for nectar and food for caterpillars with Master Gardener Mike Payne. \$10/Member; \$15/Non-Member.

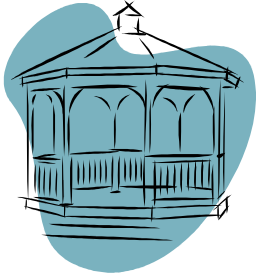
•**May 19th, Edible Landscaping Seminar at Crabtree Farm**, 9:30am-1pm. The Edible Landscaping Seminar is an approach to using what

you've got and overcoming gardening obstacles. By using what space you have, however limited, you can have a productive and efficient personal garden. Snacks provided. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$35 Non-Member:\$40

•**May 22nd, Composting 101 at Crabtree Farm**, 5:30pm-7pm. Learn the value of creating your own compost. This sustainable method of reusing and recycling has many benefits. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$15 Non-Member:\$20.

Tom's Tidbits for April 2007

Master Gardeners are Real Smoothies



The graduation ceremony on April 19 at Chester Frost Park will also be a great event..

Send in Your Favorite Garden Picture for the Newsletter

Send Gina Turley, the Newsletter Editor, your favorite picture from your garden and have it featured on the first page of the newsletter. E-mail all pictures to Leo-bishop@comcast.net

For the first time at class we had a sign-up sheet for new interns to help at the class. It was called the "Smoothie sign-up sheet". Students could come early or stay late to help with set-up or clean-up. Some students could be introducers of the night's speaker. They had to arrive early and interview the speaker, then do the introduction. Interns received volunteer hours and the class ran smooth because of all of this help.

This year has been another wonderful experience for me as the Hamilton County Horticultural Agent. When I get to know each intern a little better I am amazed at the wide array of knowledge there is in our class members. I am not just talking about gardening knowledge but "*people knowledge*" as well. This

people knowledge comes in many forms. Some of have technical problem solving skills. I had a projector that wouldn't work one night. One Master Gardener looked it over and politely said "why don't you plug in the cord". Some interns are great communicators. They are always willing to share their knowledge (and plants) with others. Others have kindness beyond belief. I know several of the interns who "looked out for each other". They helped with driving when someone had a sprained leg. They picked up handouts and videos so others didn't miss too much. I observed others who had ice-breaking skills. They struck up conversations with quieter students. I don't think we have any quieter students now.

Gardening and food sure breaks the ice in any group.

I want to personally thank all of the mentors who helped with the classes. They really made all of the classes go efficiently. More of those "Smoothies" I am talking about. A few students said they almost got their class tuition back from door prizes and all of the food. I don't know about that but it was sure a lot of fun this year.

The graduation ceremony on April 19 at Chester Frost Park will also be a great event.

We will be in the big enclosed pavilion at the far end of the park. It is a beautiful setting.

Bring your spouse or a friend to cheer you on.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom

DDT - Back by Popular Demand

by Gene Burgess

The World Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed the indoor spraying of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) to control malaria-carrying mosquitoes, reversing a 30-year policy. The Organization said there is little risk from the insecticide when it is used appropriately and that any risks are far outweighed by the effectiveness of DDT in controlling a disease that kills one million people annually. Said one WHO official, "The scientific and programmatic evidence clearly supports this reassessment. DDT presents no health risk when used properly."

New data that suggest minimal effects to the environment or health from indoor spraying of DDT have

largely eliminated the concerns which led to the ban on DDT in the early 1980s. The 2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants implemented a global ban on DDT, but allowed about 25 nations to keep using the insecticide for vector control to combat malaria under strict conditions. The WHO said of the dozen insecticides WHO has approved for house spraying, DDT is the most effective. For about \$5, a household of five people can be protected for a year, during which time the incidence of the disease is being reduced by 90%.

One of the proponents of the use of DDT is South Africa, which reintroduced DDT for indoor use several years ago after finding that ma-

laria-carrying mosquitoes had developed resistance to other insecticides. Since then, malaria case and fatality numbers have fallen to all-time low levels and South Africa has moved towards malaria elimination. Currently, 14 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa are using indoor spraying programs and ten of those are using DDT.

Activist organizations are split in their reaction. Environmental Defense, which launched the anti-DDT campaign in the 1960s, now endorses the indoor use of DDT for malaria control, as does the Sierra Club and the Endangered Wildlife Trust. Others are less enthusiastic. (*Pesticide & Toxic Chemical News*, 9/18/06).

Crabgrass can grow on bowling balls in airless rooms, and there is no known way to kill it that does not involve nuclear weapons.

~Dave Barry

Calendar Overflow!!!!

- April 14th – Trip to Mary's Nursery. Meet at the Ag Center at 9:00 am
- April 21st – Work day at the Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden. Meet at the garden at 8:30 am.

**MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON
COUNTY**

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Board of Governors

2006-2007

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