



# Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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**MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY**

## President's Letter

Hello Hamilton County Master Gardeners,  
We had a great time out at Chester Frost Park on Thursday night. We missed your presence and regret you were not able to attend the Christmas Party. We trust that all is well with you all this holiday season. The weather was cold as usual. However the room was warm and spacious. We had lots of good food, wonderful gifts, and just a wonderful time of fellowship and to reflect on the year's activities. We are sad that you were not present.

The new class will begin in January and we are excited to meet the interns. The mentors are getting organized for the upcoming class. The reason we started this mentoring program is to inform the interns of projects available to them to complete certification prior to completing the course. Our goal is to help the interns to know what projects are available to achieve certification. It is very important for the interns to connect with you as well as the master gardener projects. Chances are when we are

equipped for the job we can get the job done. This will also increase the possibility of that person becoming a lifetime master gardener. One more idea that will help our Master Gardeners is for each person to write a report about the different projects you worked with this year. Tell us who you have worked with and what you have done to complete your certification hours this year. This report can be sent to Tom Stebbins at the agriculture department. We can read with your permission these reports at our meetings and share these reports with the new interns. You can send these reports starting this month. Thank you, we look forward to reading about your projects.

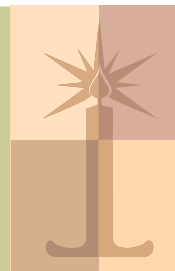
This has been an exceptional great year. Together we have achieved some very high goals. Yet there is much more to be done. Have you considered our mission as Master Gardeners? Our main pur-

pose is to educate and beautify our community through educational programs and gardening projects. With the economy being in the state that it is, we can go out into the communities and teach people how to grow their own food. When is the best time to set up a garden? Many would say that spring is the best time. However, I think that the fall/winter season is an excellent time to get started. Many neighbors go out and rake the leaves and burn them. However, if we were to go into the neighborhoods where this dreadful act is taking place we could make a difference. We could teach them how easy it is to mulch the leaves and begin the preparation of setting up a gardening area. Of course we would need speakers and teachers who are willing to venture into these areas. This could be a great outreach program. After all we give back to the community. Just a little something to think about.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

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## News:

### Britain plans elaborate gardens for Olympics

The centerpiece of the 2012 Olympics in Great Britain will be a half-mile long botanic garden, according to [Times Online](#). The area will be divided into four geographic zones, representing Europe and the Mediterranean, the Americas, Asia and the southern hemisphere. The garden will contain thousands of species, many of them brought back by British explorers and horticulturalists.

### Holiday Quotes:

Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time. ~Laura Ingalls Wilder

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. ~Janice Maeditere

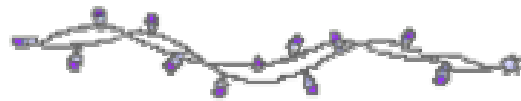
May the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all humankind. ~Author Unknown

May love and light fill your home and heart at Hanukkah. ~Author Unknown

In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it "Christmas" and went to church; the Jews called it "Hanukkah" and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say "Merry Christmas!" or "Happy Hanukkah!" or (to the atheists) "Look out for the wall!" ~Dave Barry

## DECEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Chanukah				Christmas Day		
28	29	30	31			



## JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 6:30p MG Mtg	16	17
18	19 MLK Day	20 Inauguration Day	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## **Tom's Tidbits for December 2008**

### **Master Gardeners Were a Blessing in 2008!**

It was a difficult year for me personally but with the help of the great Master Gardeners of Hamilton County, projects just keep going strong. These projects kept me busy, which was therapeutic, plus they are incredibly worthwhile for the Chattanooga Area.

The County Fair project this year was over the top for excellence. Going Green in The Garden was the theme and it was so timely. Over sixty Master Gardeners participated in this event. It unified the group in so many ways. The continuing drought and tight economy will force people to garden smarter.

The Siskin Children's Institute Garden downtown changed this year. A new playground took over the old garden. Now there are several container gardens for each class group. The garden lessons developed still work in most cases. There is excitement building because there will be another Siskin Garden built at the School on Gunbarrel Rd. These are great opportunities for many Master Gardeners to teach children. The impacts are astonishing. The rewards are numerous.

The Beginner/Newcomer class has been going strong for about fifteen years. It has become the "garden welcome wagon" for Chattanooga.

It has received regional and National attention as an ideal educational program organized and conducted entirely by Master Gardeners. Our Master Gardeners rally each year to pull together the many details needed for a successful class of about 50 students. Many people sign-up just for the door prizes, plus the great food provided. The Butterfly/Hummingbird/ Rain Garden was a project created in 2006. It is basically a gift to the City of Chattanooga. It is in the center of the tourist route in the downtown. It looked great this year and will continue to get even better.

We strengthened our partnership with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. We reached a fund raising goal that will build a greenhouse. This will reap benefits to the program for many years to come. Get ready to roll up our sleeves and help build the new gardens planned for the spring.

Many of our Master Gardeners have also developed outstanding partnerships with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, Reflection Riding Arboretum, The Chattanooga Nature Center, Crabtree Farms and many other non-profits in the area. We will add Habitat for Humanity in the coming year.

Thank-you to the great leaders and committee members who keep the projects rolling. We have a wide array of talents in this group. We have writers, editors, engineers, carpenters, painters, designers, drivers, haulers and many more skills. We can even give occasional medical care. Of course we know we have many great gardeners and cooks.

We are constantly looking for ways to 'make a difference' in Hamilton County.

Thank-you for your dedication to the Master Gardener program. It continues to be a blessing for me to have so many good people nearby. I know others have challenges in their families as well. I hope I can return the favor in some way.

Happy Holidays

For Masterful Gardens

Tom

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HAMILTON COUNTY**

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**2008-2009**

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