



Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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President's Letter

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Earlier this year I attended the 2008 Master Gardener Winter School in Lebanon, Tennessee. The purpose of the training was to assist in leadership roles. As Master Gardeners there are many opportunities to participate. Each year we need people to serve as leaders becoming teachers, speakers, and officials. Allow me to share the lecture of "The New Master Gardeners Class".

This class was designed to help in selecting, orientating, and retaining new membership. Most of us have put a jigsaw puzzle together at one time or another. Not everybody fit together like a puzzle. Some pieces always look as though they would fit perfectly and then you realize it's the wrong piece. Likewise, people are the

same way. Because this is a complicated area we must help in figuring out where each person fits in the picture. Among the reasons we lose our members are recognition, involvement, and communication. Let's focus on "Recognition" this month. Recognition is at the top of the list. Busy work is not the answer, never allow the people to feel that you wasted their time or that they weren't really needed. We must always thank each person for their support let NO good deed, no matter how small, go unrecognized. Public recognition is the best way to retain their interest and commitment. Pay attention to "milestone members" and acknowledge their 1st, 5th, 10th,

& 25th anniversary as members and list them on our website or in the newsletter and thank them for their service. Recognize members for their accomplishments through local and state awards. Recognize new members by asking for their ideas - they may have some fresh exciting thoughts and asking for their input will show you are interested in their opinions. Contact people immediately after they join and welcome them to the organization. Recognize new members at meetings and by publishing their names in the newsletter. We must never think more highly of self than we think of others. In the upcoming months I will continue to share from the 2008 Winter School classes.

-Linda Billingslea

July Master Gardner Meeting, July 17th, 6:30pm

The July membership meeting will be held at the Ag Center on the third Thursday of the month at

6:30 p.m. The speaker at the July meeting will be Dr. Stewart Lawhill-Ikebana.

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Upcoming Events

- Membership Meeting, July 17th, 6:30 pm, Ag Center.**
 Dr. Stewart Lawhill-Ikebana is the guest speaker
- Crabtree Farms has pick your own blackberries!**
 Tuesday-Saturday 9am-1pm at Crabtree Farms
 Call for harvest availability.423-493-9155 x-14
- Greenhouse Growing - Farmer For a Day**
Thursday, August 28th, 10 am - 1 pm
Cost: Member: FREE
 Non-Member:FREE
Instructor: Mike Barron, Crabtree Farms Greenhouse Manager
Summary: This informal training will introduce participants to growing in a greenhouse. Mike Barron, Crabtree's Greenhouse Manager, will instruct volunteers on how to grow and care for perennials and annuals in a greenhouse setting. He will share his growing knowledge, from pruning to hardening plants through question and answer. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty). **Call 493-9155 for more information.**



JULY 2008

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



AUGUST 2008

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

Summer Garden Tour

sponsored by Master Gardeners of Hamilton County

Saturday, July 19, 2008 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

At 1 p.m. Come to Nancy Ralhan's garden for homemade ice cream. Craig Walker from Holcomb's Nursery will join us for interesting garden conversation, questions and answers.

Lisa Lemza and Mike Shillinger

1602 Arapaho Drive, Soddy Daisy

Lisa Lemza and her husband, Mike Shillinger, garden in a large, sprawling garden in Soddy Daisy with two dogs, two goats, four chickens (including Mrs. Chicken, the famous interstate chicken), and the Master Gardener County Fair Rabbit. The garden is on the "Down Home" end of the formality scale. One section--Hell Hill--is a dedicated butterfly garden.

Directions

(The garden is about 25 miles from downtown Chattanooga, 18 miles from Chickamauga Dam. It is about 20 minutes from Northgate Mall.)

Take 27 North. After crossing Soddy Lake, the highway splits--take 27 North toward Dayton. Take the second right to East Highwater Road. At the intersection, take first right onto Old Dayton Pike, then first left onto Lee Pike. Go 1.5 miles, turn left onto Arapaho Drive. There is a large red sign: *O'possum Creek Pines*. Go up hill, stay right on Arapaho. The house is on the right at the split, 1602 Arapaho Drive. Park in the triangle of the split. Phone: 332-1780

Gretchen Rominger

745 Ashley Forest Drive, Hixson

A large inviting screened-in porch overlooks the lovely hillside garden and the deck where Bonsai and other plants in containers grow. There is the pleasant sound of a fountain in a small pond near the deck. It is a diverse garden with "rooms" in Southwest style, Oriental Retreat, Woodland Walk, and a Roman Ruin.

Directions

(This garden is 15 minutes from Northgate Mall).

From Northgate Mall go north on Hwy 153. Continue for about 3 miles. Turn right on Grubb Road. Go to the Baptist Church, turn left onto Lower Mill Road. After going around a couple of curves, turn right onto Ashley Forest Drive. 745 Ashley Forest Drive is on the left. Phone: 875-9204

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Tom's Tidbits for July 2008

Helping Chattanooga Gardeners – One Problem at a Time



The Master Gardener hotline has been another big success this year. The hotline has been in existence for four growing seasons so far. Many Master Gardeners have signed up to answer questions. The hotline is open every Monday morning from 10am to noon. Most questions come in during the week and are written on a form. A Master Gardener researches the question and pulls together information. The information is sent by mail or email to the homeowner. Some questions are easier than others. We had numerous questions like "Why aren't my tomatoes setting fruit?" "How do we get rid of moss?" "What are these wasps digging in my lawn?" "How to get rid of voles in my hosta bed?" Most can be answered with the material from the Master Gardener classes.

Other questions are more difficult. The answers may come from resource books on the shelves in the room. UT Extension bulletins are also used to answer many of these questions. Sometimes an internet search is required to find more information on the subject. Some examples of questions asked this spring included... "How to get rid of kudzu?" "Would coffee grounds help my rhododendrons?" "What's causing my trees to smell bad?" "What plants repel mosquitoes?" "Can I use Epsom salts or dish soap for bugs?" "Why are my tomato leaves curling?" "How long will pollen season last?" "How to keep the deer out of the okra?" As you can see the questions can be very interesting. People appreciate the help they get from the Master Gardeners, even if we can't answer everything.

We will keep the hotline going right through the year. People seem to come up with questions at any time.

There is always room for

more to sign up and help. Once you are trained, then you can work at any time of the week. You can even take a question home and work on the answer. It is a very flexible way to get volunteer hours. If you come on the regular Monday time you can work together with others. It is amazing how many problems are solved with input from several other Master Gardeners.

Give a call or sign up at the monthly meeting.

For Masterful Gardens
Tom



Gardening News:

Hospitality Notes

Hello it's that time of year when we look to our Fair BBQ. As you know, our folks work for days before the Fair exhibit to complete a beautiful scenario. This year's theme is a "Go Green" landscape. In honor of that, we are asking that members consider (but we are not requiring) bringing their own reusable plates, silverware, and cups. Sign-up sheets for food and beverage donations as well as who is coming, how many in their party, and what their BBQ preference is: chicken or beef, will be at the July and August membership meetings. Please see Lisa Clark (one of the Hospitality Committee Members) at the next 2 membership meetings to sign-up. You may also call Denise Chivington (Hospitality Chair) to sign-up as well 423-332-5972. Of course, place settings will be provided for those who do not wish to participate. Bring out that picnic basket and let's have fun!



Summer Garden Tour continued from page 3 -

Nancy Ralhan

1402 Highcrest Court, Hixson

The courtyard garden was on the Spring Tour in April, and there have been many changes since that time. Several varieties of gardenias are in bloom, also geraniums, lantanas, hydrangeas, roses, mandevilla and begonias. The Meyer Lemon tree, Key Lime tree, and fig tree have filled out and are bearing fruit.

Directions

(The garden is 15 minutes from downtown Chattanooga, 10 minutes from Northgate Mall.)

From Northgate Mall, go north on Hwy 153, turn left onto Gadd Road. Take the first left onto Norcross Road.

Take the second right onto Highcrest Drive. Continue to the end of Highcrest Drive. Turn right on Highcrest Court. Second house on the right, 1402 Highcrest Court. Park along street. Phone: 877-8039

**MASTER GARDENERS OF
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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[http://
mastergardeners.tennessee.edu/](http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu/)

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2007-2008

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