



# Master Gardeners hear it...

## THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

UT Extension Service The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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### President's Letter

A gardener must have patience. Oh, how I have come to dislike hearing that! (I bet you can guess who I hear that from, too). But, my wait (for now) is almost over. The yard is finally starting to look like a yard again. Our newly raised and planted cut garden is about to burst open with flowers and the zoysia sod for the front lawn is being delivered in a few days. It seems like I have had a dirt lawn forever. At least the robins have had a blast. They became best buds with Mike when they followed him all over the yard as he tilled up the old grass.

Watching and participating in a comprehensive yard renovation has made me appreci-

ate the dedication and yes, even patience gardeners have. I have even started planting seeds and rooting cuttings. Actually digging plants up and splitting them was a concept I took a while to grasp, but I have come to love sharing plants with other MGs. Why buy a new plant when you can split one that you already have? I still have a hard time envisioning what a new garden, planted from seed and cuttings, will look like after a few years. Mike told me it would take 4 years for our gardens to get established. We are now in year 2 and while I can see progress there is still a long way to go. I know, I will always be a

“want it now” kind of gal, but at least I am starting enjoy the rhythms of our yard and its seasons. Will I ever stop dreaming that one of the HGTV shows will swoop in and give my yard a make over? ...Nah!

I hope everyone will stop and take a moment to appreciate their own green space...large or small. Remember, every time we help start a garden or share our knowledge with someone, we are making the world a better place...one plant at a time. It just takes patience, right?

See everyone at the June membership meeting.

~Stephanie Payne

### MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

### June Master Gardener Meeting, June 21st, 6:30pm

The June Membership Meeting will be held at the Ag Center on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. A native of Gatlinburg, Stephen Lyn Bales is a manager and

naturalist at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville. Lyn also writes regular nature columns for the Farragut Press and Hellbender Press. His first book, “Natural Histories: Stories

from the Tennessee Valley,” has just been published by the University of Tennessee Press. The book details the nature history of a select number of plants and animals found in the Tennessee Valley. His topics not only have interesting life stories but intriguing connections to human history. Lyn also did all of the illustrations in the book. For more information about “Natural Histories” go to

[www.utpress.org](http://www.utpress.org)

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## Upcoming Events

•**June 8th, In the Garlic Patch at Crabtree Farms, 9-12.** This informal training will introduce participants to garlic harvesting. Joel Houser will instruct volunteers on how to pick garlic and store it for maximum shelf life. He will share his growing knowledge, from planting to harvesting through question and answer. Register by phone 493.9155 x16 Free.

•**June 12th, Vegetarian Cooking at Crabtree Farms, 5:30-7pm.** Mia Cucina will demonstrate how to cook summer vegetables to perfection. Learn to prepare delicious vegetarian dishes with fresh vegetables, like tomatoes, squash, and okra. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$15 Non Member: \$20.

•**July 5th, Master Gardener Board Meeting,** 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**July 13th or 20th, Potato/Patato at Crabtree Farms, 9am-12.** This informal training will introduce participants to potato harvesting. Register by phone 493.9155 x16 Free.

•**July 14th, Food Preservation at Crabtree Farms 10:30-12,** Chef Sara Benoit of 212 Market Restaurant will explain and demonstrate various methods of preservation, including canning, freezing and making jams & pickles. Register by phone 493.9155 x16; Member:\$35 Non Member: \$40.

## JUNE 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Tomato Trellising 9-12
3	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting	8 Garlic 9-12	9
10	11	12 Cooking Class 5:30-7:00	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 6:30 Membership Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## JULY 2007

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

## Rare Mississippi Tree by Gina Turley

I was recently telling a native Tennessean about growing up and gardening in Mississippi. When I started talking about the Bottle Tree in my grandparent's neighbor's yard, I was met with a blank stare. My Tennessee Friend said "a what?" I began to describe the common Bottle Tree of Mississippi, not the Bottle Tree in Australia or South America. She looked at me like I was crazy. It then dawned on me that most Tennesseans may not have ever spotted this rare tree specimen; let alone grew up next door to one. So I asked my Tennessee Husband if he knew what a Bottle Tree was. He gave me the same blank stare. At that point I was determined to obtain a photo of this species and present it to my fellow Hamilton County Master Gardeners.

Last weekend I did make it to Missis-

sippi to visit my grandparents. I asked my grandmother about the bottle tree. My grandmother is originally from Louisiana and quite frankly has hated the Bottle Tree next door for as long as I can remember. She proceeded to tell me the history behind the Bottle Tree.

The Bottle Tree originated in Africa. It was thought that tying the colorful bottles in trees would attract evil spirits. They would then get caught in the glass bottles and be trapped. This concept was brought to Mississippi with slavery. The beliefs faded but the bottles remained. Wikipedia defines the bottle tree as: "An artificial tree made of glass bottles, usually of the liquor variety, commonly found in lawns of homes in the Delta region of Mississippi."

I was shock to even know it had a history. I thought it was

just something you put in your yard in Mississippi to annoy your neighbors with. Trying to describe it to someone who has never seen one is like trying to describe to someone from the North what Okra is. This goes something like this "well you see, it's this fuzzy, green, hollow pod thingy that is slimy on the inside with seeds. It's really good fried." The description of the Bottle Tree goes something like this "it's a pole with nails sticking out of it and you hang bottles on it- no really-I'm not making that up."

In any case, it is truly a tree you never have to water, never have to worry about frost or freeze. It makes a colorful but controversial center piece for any garden. If it's not against your homeowner's association regulations, I bet it will be as soon as one goes up!



*Photo of Bottle Tree Next Door to Grandparents. Photo by Grandfather, J.L. Lay.*

## Tom's Tidbits for June 2007

### Take The Master Gardener Project Tour

When the weather begins to get hot this summer, it may be time to get in the car and tour some other gardens. Here are a few places I have seen this year that amaze me. They all have a Master Gardener responsible for the success of the garden. All are contributing to the gardening education of many children and adults.

**Stop #1 Louann Smith Garden,** Go and take a peek from the road at 607 Fleetwood Dr. on Lookout Mountain. Louann showed off her wonderful garden during the Food Bank Garden Tour. In my opinion it was the best garden on the tour. She has a lot of creativity in a small space. Her gardens have innovative ideas that are within an average budget. She started many of her plants from seed. Look for her veggie

garden in the front yard. I hope this concept takes off everywhere.

#### **Stop #2 Master Gardener Vegetable Garden at Crabtree Farms.**

Gene Howard and his crew have planted a showcase organic garden. Gene says many other gardeners at the Crabtree Community Gardens show interest. They see his success with growing. They marvel at how he controls weeds without back breaking labor. See the Three Sisters Garden of Corn, Beans and Squash.

#### **Stop #3 Siskin Children's Garden**

– located just outside the entrance to the Siskin Childrens School at 1101 Carter St., right across from the Convention Center. Melissa Weyman and several other Master Gardeners have put together an-

other outstanding sensory garden for the kids. The garden is raised on steps so all children can experience the splendor of various colors, textures, smells, and even tastes. The garden also offers a wonderful opportunity for teachers to bring their curriculum outdoors and talk about nature, plants, weather, and even bugs! Master Gardeners set up and teach topic days like 'Worm Day', 'Compost Day', 'Leaf Day', and 'Pumpkin Day'

**Stop#4 Master Gardener Hummingbird/ Butterfly Garden-** Located along Riverside Drive, between the two Tennessee Aquarium buildings. This garden was built by Master Gardeners from fifteen states during the 2006 Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference

It was accomplished through the great vision of Mike Payne and the design talents of many other Hamilton County Master Gardeners. It looks great right now and hopefully many will look and not touch during the Riverbend Festival.

**Stop#5 Community Garden Plots at St. Alban's Episcopal Church** located at 1803 North Gold Point Circle in Hixson. Behind the church. Susan Schott organized this garden in 2005 with the help of many church members and a few Master Gardeners.

The plots are open to any community member. All of the plots are in use. The arrangement of the plots is unique and rather artsy.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom

## Gardening News:

### Genome project will protect trees from diseases

A project led by N.C. State Univ. will study the genomes of trees in the *Fagaceae* family, including beech, chestnut and oak species, to help breed blight-resistant trees. American chestnuts were destroyed during the first half of the 20th century by chestnut blight in what has been called the greatest ecological disaster in U.S. history. The research team plans to create an integrated genetic and physical map of Chinese chestnut to pinpoint areas in the tree's genome that determine resistance to chestnut blight, said NCSU professor Ron Sederoff

### John Deere Landscapes purchases LESCO

John Deere Landscapes announced the purchase of LESCO Inc. in Cleveland. The transaction is subject to LESCO shareholder and regulatory approval. John Deere Landscapes operates 300 distribution centers of nursery stock, irrigation and landscape supplies nationwide. LESCO operates 330 stores distributing lawn care, maintenance and golf course products and also has 114 Stores on Wheels.

### Pink Double Knock Out wins best new plant

Pink Double Knock Out rose from Novalis was named best new plant at the NMPRO New Plant Pavilion at the ANLA Management Clinic in Louisville, Ky. Pink Double Knock Out features the same disease resistance as Knock Out. Its double, hot-pink flowers do not require deadheading. It reaches 4 ft. high and wide and grows in full sun. It's hardy in USDA Hardiness Zones 4-9. Management Clinic attendees voted from a group of 38 plants.

### Study shows positive impact of flowers

A behavioral study conducted at Harvard Univ. shows people feel more compassionate toward others, have less worry and anxiety, and feel less depressed when flowers are in the home. Throughout 2006, Society of American Florists/Flowers Promotion Organization Alliance partnered with psychologist and faculty member Nancy Etcoff of Mass. General Hospital and Harvard Medical School to determine the effects of flowers in the home environment on humans' well-being. The Alliance is publicizing the findings to consumers through an ongoing strategic public relations campaign that will launch this month.

If a June night  
could talk, it  
would  
probably boast  
it invented  
romance.

~Bern  
Williams

### More photos needed 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 [Leobishop@comcast.net](mailto:Leobishop@comcast.net)

**MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON  
COUNTY**

PO BOX 25194  
Chattanooga, TN 37422

Phone: 423-855-6113  
Fax: 423-855-6115  
Email: Garden@MGHC.org



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