



# 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

It's spring planting time! Time to play in the yard. Everybody is looking forward to getting out in the yard to see all the spring bulbs up, and planting annuals to fill in the spaces to make the yard and container look beautiful for the Easter.

Please be sure to attend the March meeting. As you know, we have ask each of you to submit names for the officials to Tom Stebbins, we will be voting at the next meeting.

Thank you, to the entire body for your phone calls, cards, messages and yes your prayers in the passing of my mother-in-law, Mrs. Evon Story. We miss her, but we hold our memories near and dear. Thank you!

Thank you for a great 2008 - 2009 year. You have inspired me, the privilege to working with such a diverse group of

people. Realizing your keen interest in the growth and the development of places other than your own adobe, knowing the type of personalities represented in this body of well-disciplined citizens, I feel highly honored in having served as president of the Hamilton County Master Gardeners. Thank you again for making this a growing year not just for the organization, but also for me. I would like to take this time to thank each of you for the team work. We were able to accomplish great things.

~Linda Billingslea



## Volunteers Needed:

On Saturday, March 28 and April 4, we will be putting in the garden at Siskin East Brainerd. This is a large project and we need everyone's help to be successful.

On March 28, we will remove the churt and rocks and we will install a small retaining/border wall.

On April 4, we will bring in top soil and mulch and fill in the garden beds.

This is a major undertaking and we will need a lot of people to make this happen.

We also need:

pickup trucks/trailers to haul away the churt and bring in mulch  
wheel barrows, shovels, etc,  
lots of people to help! Please Call Melissa!

### ***In a Nut Shell:***

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## News:

### Dues are Due

Your 2009 (\$16 ) membership dues need to be turned in before April 1st to have your name included in the 2009 Membership Directory.

Your ACE HOURS should also be turned in by March 31st, especially if you are receiving a 3-5-or 10 year award.

#### Please mail to:

UT Extension- Hamilton County  
Master Gardener Resource Room  
6183 Adamson Circle  
Chattanooga, TN 37416

If you need an ACE Hour form you can go to our MG website [www.mghc.org](http://www.mghc.org) click on Members link, then scroll down to Service Hours reporting form and print one. Treasurer Patsy Boles will also be collecting dues at the Monthly Membership Meeting.

### Hospitality Notes

Hello from your Hospitality Committee

We are preparing for the 2009 Hamilton County Master Gardener Graduation Celebration. Congratulations New Master Gardener Interns! The celebration will be held at the Chester Frost Pavilion on 4-16-09 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. If you plan on joining us, please sign up to bring a food offering: a covered dish, beverages and ice, and/or dessert. The success of our party is enhanced by your generosity and is much appreciated. The committee will provide place settings and decorations. Sign-up sheets will be at the next two MG Meetings. You may also sign up by emailing me [dgchivington@comcast.net](mailto:dgchivington@comcast.net) or calling me at 423-332-5972.

Yours in food & fun "Nise" Chivington - Hospitality Chair J.

## MARCH 2009

| Sun | Mon                              | Tue   | Wed                 | Thu                                      | Fri | Sat  |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|-----|--|
| 1   | 2 6-9p<br>Roses/<br>composting   | 3 9-noon<br><u>Perennials</u><br>Ruth<br>Baumgardner                        | 4                   | 5<br>6p MG<br>Board Mtg                  | 6   | 7  |
| 8   | 9 6-9p<br>Trees &<br>Ornamentals | 10 9-noon<br><u>Trees&amp;Orn</u><br>6:30-9p<br>Beg. Class<br>Soils/grass   | 11                  | 12 Bee-<br>keeping<br>Class              | 13  | 14   |
| 15  | 16 6-9p<br>Insects &<br>Diseases | 17 9-noon<br><u>Insects&amp;Dis.</u><br>6:30-9p<br>Beg. Class<br>Tree/herbs | 18                  | 19 6:30<br>MG Mtg<br>Beekeeping<br>Class | 20  | 21   |
| 22  | 23 6-9p<br>Fruit                 | 24 9-noon<br><u>Roses&amp;co</u><br>6:30-9p<br>Beg. Class<br>Wildlife       | 25 Ash<br>Wednesday | 26 Bee-<br>keeping<br>Class              | 27  | 28 Siskin<br>Garden<br>Work Day<br>Beekeep-<br>ing Class |
| 29  | 30 6-9pm<br>Turfgrass            | 31 9-noon<br><u>Turfgrass</u><br>6:30-9p<br>Beg. Class<br>Flowers           |                     |  |     |  |

## APRIL 2009

| Sun  | Mon                | Tue                  | Wed | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|-----|--|--|---|
|  |                    |                      | 1   | 2<br>6p MG<br>Board<br>Mtg                             | 3 Native<br>Plant Sale<br>Reflection<br>Riding | 4 Native<br>Plant Sale<br>Siskin Garden<br>Work Day |
| 5 Native<br>Plant Sale<br>Reflection<br>Riding | 6 6-9p<br>TBA      | 7 9-noon<br>TBA      | 8   | 9  | 10   | 11  |
| 12   | 13 6-9p<br>Pruning | 14 9-noon<br>Pruning | 15  | 16 6:30<br>MG<br>Graduation<br>@ Chester<br>Frost Park | 17   | 18  |
| 19   | 20                 | 21                   | 22  | 23   | 24   | 25  |
| 26   | 27                 | 28                   | 29  | 30   |  |   |

## Tom's Tidbits for March 2009

### March Madness of Gardening Activities

This is probably the fullest schedule of activities I have ever had. There are several things going on weekly during March. The Master Gardener classes are now about half way through. The Beginner-Newcomer classes will be given on the last four Tuesdays of March at 6:30pm. This is a very popular class series taught at the AG Center by our Master Gardeners. The cost is \$50 but students get more than their money's worth from the door prizes and great food at each session.

On the last three Thursday nights in March at 7pm, there will be a Beginner Beekeeping class series. This is being taught by the Tennessee Valley Beekeeping Association members. We already have over 55 people signed up. A fourth session will be held on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be hands on session with an opportunity to see and touch a honeybee hive. There will be a special program given by Ruth Baumgardner on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This seminar is sponsored by the Chattanooga Association of a Landscape Professionals.

#### Interns should get involved

To become a Master Gardener an intern must complete all of the classes. If they miss a class they can watch a substitute video. Then, the first year an intern volunteers forty hours of service to complete the requirements. The year cycle goes from January 2008 to January 2009. So spring is a great time to get started. There are plenty of opportunities to get hours and help the community.

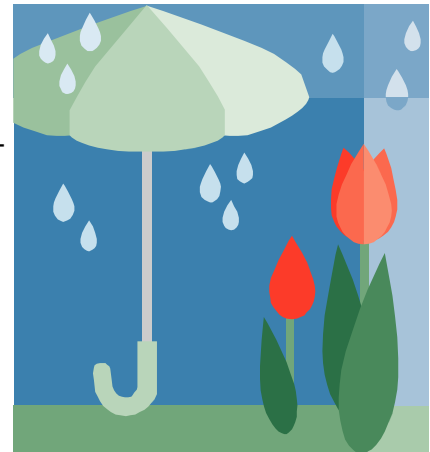
The Chattanooga Area Food Bank garden needs help in the greenhouse during the week. We will have several work days at the new garden site as well. Crabtree Farms has numerous opportunities during the day or on weekends. The same goes for Habitat for Humanity. These places are listed in your directory.

I hope everyone finds a good fit for their skills. If every intern finished their hours it would total 2400 hours. We calculate each hour to be worth \$20/hour so that would amount to \$48,000 of service to the community! That's the power of the Master Gardener program.

Spring begins on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The weeks go by so fast. We will keep you posted by email, newsletter, website and yahoo group. It will be a very busy spring and summer this year. I hope you can jump in and help with many of the upcoming projects.

For Masterful Gardens

Tom



#### Volunteers Needed:

The dates for the Spring Wildflower Festival and Native Plant Sale will be April 3, 4, & 5, 2009. The hours of the sale will be Friday and Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday 1:00pm to 5:00pm. This year we will, again, have guided wildflower walks, several longer hikes exploring Reflection Riding's property, some interesting talks on a variety of gardening and botanical subject, live folk music, and, of course, hundreds of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers for sale. A full schedule of events will appear in the newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to work a 4-hour shift please email Mary Katherine at [mkat@reflectionriding.org](mailto:mkat@reflectionriding.org), or call (423) 821-9582 x200.

**MASTER GARDENERS OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY**

PO BOX 25194

Phone: 423-855-6113

Fax: 423-855-6115

Email: Garden@MGHC.org



<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu/>

**Board of Governors**

**2008-2009**

**Master Gardener Officers:**

**President**– Linda Billingslea

**Vice President**– Jeff Jarrett

**Secretary**– Donna Smolinski

**Treasurer**– Patsy Boles

**Past President/Advisor**– Stephanie  
Payne

**Master Gardener Coordinator**–

Tom Stebbins

**Certification Officer**–Gretchen Rominger

**New Class Rep:** Lisa Clark

Holly Jones

**1 Year Members**

Bud Hines

Jim Keown

Joy Wooden

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Karen Webster

Rena Keane

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Elaine Barker

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Pasty Boles

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Bud Hines

Jim Keown

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Linda Billingslea

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