



Master Gardeners Hear it ...

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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President's Letter

MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

Congratulation to the 2008 graduating class, and to those who completed the certification and are now certified master gardeners. You have made the mentors very proud. To those of you who have not yet reached the certification, we have much work to be done, you can do it. You have much knowledge, now you can put it into action by giving back to the community. The other awards VIP Pins, Five Year Pins, Lifetime Ten Year Awards will be presented at a later date. Congratulations and good work.

I don't usually discuss my hobbies. Most people don't care, others like to test me on what I don't know. Recently a co-worker ask me if I knew what the plant Jesus in a manger looked like? And if I knew the botanical name for it? I have never heard of the plant. Over the last two and half years I have attended an evangelism class, and I have been a believer of Jesus for as long as I can remember. I thought she was asking me about the birth of Jesus and

where He was born. If any of you can help me with this question please give the answer and tell what the plant looks like.

The tour of the master gardeners gardens was such a joy. I have always been a gardener. My mom and dad taught me the importance of gardening, so I have always had a vegetable garden as well as a flower bed. It was a joy to attend the garden tour of our own master gardeners. I hope that you all were able to visit with those who opened their gardens to us. What lovely yards . Yards where the home owners had poured themselves into the gardens. Thank you for sharing your gardens.

We appreciated Master Gardeners Lisa Lemza and Jane Elmore who were representatives at the Earth Day event. Thank you for your service. I would also like to thank the Hospitality chair person and

committee for a job well done. And everybody who donated door prizes and stepped up to the plate at the graduation and awards ceremony. Thank you!

My thoughts and prayers go out to those who are absent because of sickness. I recognize many who are not with us for one reason or another. Some are away because they are care givers for loved ones, while others are away because they are ill. Please know that you are not forgotten. We realize that you are not able to attend the meetings but we hope that you have the strength to go out into your garden and enjoy the new growth of the season. Let's not forget the sick and shut in with a phone call, cards and e-mail messages.

Winners of the Bird House Raffle: #1 Tish Barlew, #2 Terri Satterfield, #3 Edna Cason, #4 Cheryl Hambrick, and #5 Teri Elliott.

-Linda Billingslea

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Upcoming Events

- **Membership Meeting, May 15th**
- **May 17th, Tour of Roses contact Sandee Jenkins 870-4791**
- **May 30th, Garden Party at Rock City 7 - 10 p.m.**
ASAP Silent Auction Items please give us the following information the Name, Item, Value of the item, Artist and /or donor, a brief description of the item. Send to rsmith@chattfoodbank.org
- **June 2-4th, Mid - South Greenhouse Conference in MS**
- **June 5th, Board Meeting at 6:00.**
- **June 13th, Garlic Harvesting - Farmer For a Day ,10 am - 1 pm FREE**, This informal training will introduce participants to garlic harvesting. Joel Houser, Crabtree's Farm Manager, 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. Wear appropriate attire for gardening, such as comfortable work shoes and clothes (things that can get dirty).
- **Membership Meeting, June 19th**
- **June 28-29th, UT Gardens Knoxville, TN**
- **June 28th, Delano Daylily Garden** 8:30am departure Ag Center, cost \$11.00



MAY 2008

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



JUNE 2008

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

Gardening News:

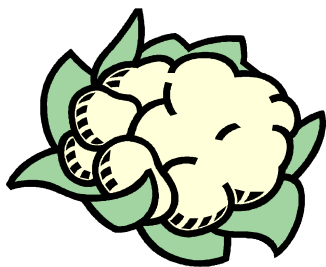
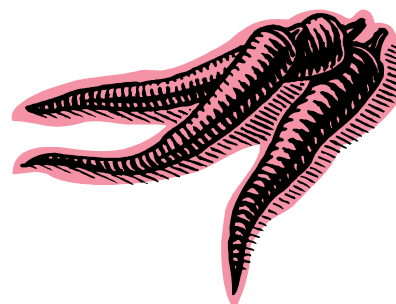


Landscape spending continues to rise

A [Nat'l. Gardening Assoc.](#) study found that homeowners spent a record \$44.7 billion to hire lawn and landscape services in 2006. Services included lawn care and landscape maintenance, installation and construction, tree care services and landscape design services. An estimated 34.5 million households, 30% of the U.S. total, hire at least 1 type of lawn and landscape service. Installation and construction services were hired by 6.9 million households. Landscape design services were hired by 2.3 million households.

In search of the elusive ghost chile

What is the world's hottest pepper? If you guessed the jalapeno pepper (2,500-8,000 Scoville units) or tabasco pepper (30,000-50,000 Scoville units), you'd be wrong. These and other hot peppers can't hold a candle to the [bhut jolokia](#) or ghost chile, which measures more than 1 million Scoville units. Even the Guinness Book of World Records recognizes it as the world's spiciest chile. The bhut jolokia is produced in northeast India, and only small quantities have been exported. Pepper aficionados are hoping the bhut jolokia's designation as world hottest will be cause for increased production and availability. To grow the bhut jolokia, order seed from [N.M. St. Univ. Chile Pepper Institute](#).



Stopping plant virus could impact HIV prevention

A study by Purdue Univ. researchers to stop [virus reproduction](#) in plants could lead to new ways to prevent infection by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Cauliflower mosaic virus (CMV), which attacks a plant group that includes cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage, and HIV, which causes AIDS, use the same process to multiply in their victims' cells and spread disease. Botany professor Zhixiang Chen and his colleagues have found that CMV relies on the same protein complex to multiply in plants. He said the proteins in the host plants might be particularly important for these type of viruses, such as HIV, because if they are blocked, then the viruses can't replicate. The key question for researchers is how blocking the function of 1 protein inhibits transcription and replication of the viruses. Discovering the answer could mean major advances in preventing retroviruses and treatment of diseases they cause in plants and animals.

Tom's Tidbits for May 2008

My Heart Goes Out To Master Gardeners

On April 25th, I lost my life-long gardening partner. My wife, Jill, battled breast cancer for almost 2 ½ years. Around November, follow-up scans showed it had metastasized to her liver and bones. The 2008 Master Gardener classes were starting soon. I wanted to make it through the classes without attention on our family. I surrounded myself with a close group of mentors who knew we were in for a fight. We still had hope we could buy a year, three years, maybe ten more years. Our daughter got engaged and planned a July 6th wedding. That was something to live for. Many breast cancers have good rates of remission. Jill has always been a strong one. She was lifting railroad ties after her first remission. She and Linda Billingslea (our MG pres) teamed up to clean the Harrison Bay State Park four mile trail. Over a three month stretch they walked the trail almost every week day. They collected about 50 bags of old bottles, cans, bed rails, junk, etc. They even pulled over 30 tires out of the cold lake in the winter. She then went hang gliding in November off Lookout Mountain with one arm wrapped with ban-

dages. She used every moment to live life.

God had different plans. Several chemotherapy approaches were fruitless. We spent several weekends in the hospital getting blood or fluids. Cancer is hell. It spread to her lungs. Even her last days were eventful. She was baptized the day of the MG graduation banquet. I'm sure she felt everyone's prayers during that time. Water was poured on her face and "Amazing Grace" was sung by a friend. She opened her eyes one last time and said a big "wow". She was motionless and silently rested for eight more hours until about 2am on Friday, when she slipped away.

Jill and I gardened at all eight homes we rented or owned in Michigan and Tennessee. She was the real worker. Typically, when I came home from my job, Jill would have new garden beds transformed. Huge rocks would somehow be moved. Pound for pound, she was the strongest woman I have ever known.

Jill taught me how to really enjoy the garden. She

was an artist so she used our yard as her canvas. Every house was transformed into a beautiful home inside and out. Jill helped others as well. She was an active Master Gardener volunteer. Her favorite projects were at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and at The Siskin Children's Institute Garden. She was often seen giving a neck or shoulder massage to an aching gardener.

Thanks to all who helped our family through this difficult time. The Master Gardener mentors really took over the last weeks of class. As the class members found out they poured out their love to me. That kept me going.

I will deeply miss my wonderful soil mate. I have to slowly get back into life. I think Master Gardener projects hold the best hope for me. Keep active. Help others. Try new exciting things. This is what Jill would do. That's the best I can do to honor Jill's life.

Thanks so much

For Masterful Gardening
Tom

Gardening News:

Potted herbs may be exempt from Conn. sales tax

The Connecticut Legislature's Environment Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 450, which would exempt edible plants, including potted herbs, from sales tax. Sal Gilbertie, owner of Gilbertie's Herb Gardens in Easton, testified in front of the committee. Gilbertie's is the state's largest herb grower. The state already exempts most foods from the sales tax, "so exempting herbs which are grown to be eaten or to be used as medicinal supplements makes sense," said Bob Heffernan, exec. sec. of [Conn. Nursery and Landscape Assoc.](#)

Kroger adds more organics

Kroger Co. is expanding its line of [organic food](#) by adding 60 products in its Private Selections brand. Most products will be available in Kroger's stores by the end of September. Its Private Selections Organic products carry the USDA Organic Certified seal, in addition to Kroger's Naturally Preferred natural and organic foods line, introduced 5 years ago. Kroger operates more than 2,400 stores in 31 states under 24 name banners.

Chemical could attract beneficial insects

USDA researchers discovered a compound that attracts lacewings, which are naturally occurring beneficial insects that could assist growers in pest-control programs. The product is derived from catnip oil. Scientists describe it as lacewing "cologne." It's potent -- just 25 milligrams is sufficient to treat an acre of land. Results from a 2-year field study show the compound attracts both male and female lacewings, which later produce another generation of beneficial predators. Chemist [Kamal Chauhan](#) is working with Sterling International in Spokane, Wash., to commercialize formulations that attract specific beneficial insects.

Ring, ring! Your plant is calling

Perhaps we'll never have to worry about watering again. [Botanicalls](#), a project taking place in New York City, allows plants to place phone calls for human help. The high-tech setup summons humans when plants need water. You can also get to know the plants by giving them a call, (212) 202-8348. The plants will gladly pass along information about their habits and characteristics.



**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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Master Gardener Coordinator–

Tom Stebbins

Certification Officer–Gretchen Rominger

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Bud Hines

Jim Keown

Joy Wooden

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James Gumnick

Karen Webster

Rena Keane

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