



# Master Gardeners Hear it ...

UT Extension The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture

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November 2007

## President's Letter

## MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

As you know, when it comes to the yard, I am not the most patient person. It has taken Mike and me 6 long months of planning, building a retaining wall and improving the soil to get our latest project ready, but we finally planted the conifers in our new Conifer garden this past weekend. The center piece is a very large river rock (group seating). It is my birthday present from Mike...not quite the "big rock" I was hoping for. I was a little suspicious after I told Mike, "No, dirt, soil or any mixture there of will be passed off as my birthday present" and he agreed. I should have known he would out smart me! Well, actually, I love my rock. It just looks so

big and out of place right now, because even though we planted small conifers we spaced them far apart to give them room to grow. It was not easy. Knowing the plants will grow bigger over time, yet wanting the bed to look full now was hard to overcome. But, as you know, spacing plants too close will get you every time. This is where my impatience really comes back to bite me. How many of you (me included) end up having to transplant plants because of overcrowding? We can all use a reminder that as we divide and transplant plants this fall - remember to give your plants plenty of elbow

room (and yes, Mike constantly reminds me). Oh, our next project is to replant the cut garden, because some of the plants are already overgrown. I told you it was hard!

If you missed the October Master Gardener meeting at Rock City Maize (We never had so much fun getting lost!), then be sure to attend the November's meeting. Jim Gumnick is giving a talk on Bonsai.

Also, please join us at 6:00 pm at the Ag Center Arboretum. We will plant and dedicate a special tree in memory of Joyce Nichols (Joe Nichol's wife). Hope to see everyone there. Stephanie Payne

## November Membership Meeting

The November Membership Meeting will be held at the Ag Center on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. For the November 15th meeting we are asking that you come at 6:00 instead of the usual 6:30. As you know Joe Nichols wife Joyce passed away recently. Joe

was our first AG representative and helped to establish the Master Gardener program in Hamilton County. We are coming early to plant a pink dogwood tree in our arboretum in honor of Joyce. As for our speaker we are having a Bonsai session given by one of our own Master

Gardeners, Jim Gumnick . He will be giving us a Power Point presentation, followed by a demonstration. And there will be a bonsai given away. So, if you have always wondered about Bonsai or even considered doing one of your own you won't want to miss.

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## Upcoming Events

•**November 15th, Master Gardener Membership Meeting**, 6:00 at the AG Center.

•**Crabtree Farms: Wreath Making, December 1st, 10:30 am-12 noon**

Cost: Member:\$15 Non-Member:\$20

Summary: Master wreath-maker Padgett Arnold will demonstrate techniques creating gorgeous holiday wreaths. Participants will attach greenery on grapevine wreath bases, and decorate with dried flowers, leaves, berries, dried pods, pinecones and moss. Everyone takes home their own beautiful wreath or centerpiece. Register by phone 493.9155 x16

•**Crabtree Farms: Center-piece & Swag Making**

December 1st, 1 to 2:30 pm

Cost: Member:\$15 Non-Member:\$20

Summary: Master wreath-maker Padgett Arnold will demonstrate techniques creating gorgeous holiday centerpieces. Participants will attach greenery on grapevine wreath bases, and decorate with dried flowers, leaves, berries, dried pods, pinecones and moss. Everyone takes home their own beautiful wreath or centerpiece. Register by phone 493.9155 x16

•**Master Gardener Christmas Party, December 13th.**

## NOVEMBER 2007

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



## DECEMBER 2007

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

## Master Gardener Christmas Party!!

At last we have a time and a place! **The Master Gardener Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at ABBA's house from 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm.**

Please tell other Master Gardeners. We will have directions and sign up sheets at the November Membership meeting for everyone to bring their favorite appetizer, dessert or side dish. We will also have an RSVP sheet for MGs and guests at the meeting so we can get an estimate of the number of people attending. If you can't be at the meeting you can contact Kelley Walker directly. Don't forget – everyone bring a gift for secret Santa gift exchange (limit \$15). We had a great time last year, so make plans to be there!

Reminder...the Christmas Party takes the place of the December Membership meeting. If you have any questions, you can also contact Stephanie Payne or Tom Stebbins.



### **Gardening News:**

#### **Mini poinsettias can be easy to produce**

For the past 2 years researchers at [Cornell Univ. Long Island Horticultural Research and Ext. Center](#) in Riverhead, N.Y., have been growing mini poinsettias (2 1/2- and 3 1/2-inch pots). More than 30 cultivars were trialed in 2006. Plants were spaced 5 pots per sq. ft. of bench area and kept in preformed trays to avoid being tipped over. The growing medium was kept on the dry side to eliminate the need for growth regulators. Both pinched and non-pinched plants were produced. Some cultivars didn't require pinching, while others didn't respond well to pinching. Cultivars that rated "excellent" were 'Christmas Feelings White' and 'Da Vinci.'

#### **Forecast is sunny for next Knock Out rose**

Are you ready for the next punch in the Knock Out series of landscape roses? Conard-Pyle unveiled Sunny Knock Out at Fashion In Bloom. Sunny Knock Out opens to a medium yellow, and over time it becomes more pastel and eventually gets a pink tinge to some petals. Conard-Pyle's Steve Hutton was quick to point out that this is not Yellow Knock Out that many in the industry have been anticipating. That's still in the works at Bill Radler's breeding grounds. "As you know, yellow is the most difficult color to get disease resistance in a rose," Hutton said. "This one has the disease resistance and garden performance we want, but not the true yellow color. That's coming, though."

## Tom's Tidbits for November 2007 Thank You Master Gardeners

I want to give thanks to all of the beautiful people who have become Master Gardeners of Hamilton County. You are truly making a difference in this community. Chattanooga knows you exist and feels the impact from the many projects you are doing.

This time of year I get calls from many Master Gardener "wantabees". These are people who have heard about the program and don't want to miss the class. We are now getting to the point where we can be a little selective. We even have a short interview questionnaire. Most of the questions ask if the candidate can dedicate a nice chunk of their extra time to this venture. The purpose is to get students who will be particularly active as Master Gardeners.

I know we often get folks who don't get all their hours completed. I also

know life happens to all of us. Hardships keep many from fulfilling their promise. Time slips by so quickly. People are so different in their participation style. Many like to be a part of a large group project. Some like to work alone on their own project. I think both are valuable to the Master Gardener program. Documentation is most important for both styles. Yearly project reports are extremely important. Just a paragraph or two lets me know as the County Agent what you are doing. Sometimes this doesn't come out fully when hours are turned in. Each small project is enormously important to the total. Together we make even a bigger mark. We already have great name recognition in Chattanooga. I rarely talk to a group now, who has not heard of the Master Gardeners. I get numerous requests throughout the year from newspaper,

radio and television.

They ask, what are the Master Gardeners up to this year? Thank-you for supplying the answers to those requests.

Next month in the December issue I will reflect upon the projects that occurred in 2007.

Please turn in your hours and write a short description of the accomplishments you personally achieved this past year. In the next month or so please help me recruit the next class. If you know a friend who would make a great Master Gardener, please encourage them to apply.

Again thank-you for your dedication to the Master Gardener program.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving

**For Masterful Gardening**

**Tom**

### Poison ivy packs more of a punch

Gardeners beware! Poison ivy is becoming more virulent, Akron Beacon Journal reported. USDA researchers discovered that rising carbon dioxide levels are likely to both stimulate growth of poison ivy and increase its toxicity.





## Gardening News:

### Kudzu creeps northward

Canadian scientists are on watch for kudzu. "The vine that ate the South" has moved into Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, and may pose a threat to Canada, according to the Univ. of Toronto's Ecology Dept. Heather Coiner is in the 2nd of a 5-year study of kudzu funded by a grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. It's probably just a matter of time, scientists say, before global warming allows the aggressive vine to survive in Canada. "I've seen it in Albany, N.Y.," Coiner told the Toronto Star. "The crown was very large, it was probably 10-15 years old." The plant was destroyed, but the fact it had survived winters in up-state New York is a worry for invasive-plant researchers. So far, no kudzu sightings have been reported in Canada, Marilyn Taylor at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency told the newspaper.

### Want to be a Plant Tycoon?

A new computer game allows players to achieve virtual fame and fortune by breeding plants, USA Today reported. Plant Tycoon features a virtual greenhouse where players have to make the right crosses to develop 6 magic plants. The game earned 3 1/2 out of 5 stars from the newspaper's columnist.

### Bailey puts guarantee behind roses

Bailey Nurseries is introducing a 2-year guarantee on the Easy Elegance Rose Collection beginning next spring. "We did a consumer focus group of generation X and Y, and roses are off their radar," Bailey brand manager Jonathan Pedersen said. "They call them Grandma's plant and say they don't have the time to spray and care for roses. As an industry, we need to change that," Pedersen said. The Bailey guarantee is above and beyond whatever guarantee the local retailer puts on an Easy Elegance rose. The 3 newest members of the collection — All the Rage, My Girl and Super Hero — were displayed for the first time at Fashion In Bloom.

The funny thing about Thanksgiving, or any huge meal, is that you spend 12 hours shopping for it and then chopping and cooking and braising and blanching. Then it takes 20 minutes to eat it and everybody sort of sits around in a food coma, and then it takes four hours to clean it up. ~Ted Allen

### 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 [Leo-bishop@comcast.net](mailto:Leo-bishop@comcast.net)

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

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**2007-2008**

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