



# Master Gardeners Hear it ... Through the Grapevine

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MASTER GARDENERS OF HAMILTON COUNTY

## President's Letter

Regretfully, our secretary Ron Bohrer resigned in August. However, Donna Smolinski was nominated and properly voted in at the September meeting. On behalf of the board I would like to thank Ron for his service and welcome aboard Donna, we look forward to working with you. You can all be so proud of the Master gardeners exhibit displayed at the County Fair. If you did any work at all you have helped to improve some garden in the surrounding communities. Just in case you were unable to attend this year's county fair I will share some of the high points. As visitors approach the garden we had an animated tree that had movement anytime someone was kind enough to water it. Every area was defined/labeled with painted slates identifying the exhibit. As the visitors enter, the garden greeters welcomed them and made them aware

that the items featured were for sale to benefit the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. This was perfect because everybody doesn't have the space to garden, however containers were displayed beautifully filled with blossoms, textures and foliage people could see how easy it is to garden in containers. Many ideas were taken as people entered and walked through the garden. What bird lover couldn't resist the beautiful hand painted bird houses that adorned the finch lines, poles, and other areas of our exhibit. What's really nice is this fall we can count on the wrens to nest in those lovely bird-houses. Some of the other items made by the master gardeners were the hypertufa feeders, birdbaths, vases and teacup bird feeders. An unexpected feature in any garden is a teacup

perched on posts filled with snacks for the birds in the mist of a fall flower bed. Next we had the raised beds with experienced master gardeners on hand to answer questions. People were impressed to see the beds filled with herbs, fruit, and vegetable plants. All the things that really work in raised beds. Then, there was the rooftop gardening with the rain barrels on either side of the faulk rooftop. Of course, rain barrels are not new, just a smart way of recycling rain water. People shared as they walked through their experience of rain barrels. Years ago people had rain barrels at the corner of the house without any covering. The rain flowed off the top of the house directly into the barrel. Today the rain barrels are somewhat more appealing to the eye than in yester years. Next we had the composting and worm casting setup. *Continue on page 5*

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## Upcoming Events

### November 20th:

**November Master Gardener Monthly Meeting:** Trae Moore previously of the Sequatchie Cove Farm, recently from an Italian farm will speak on local food production and traditions at 6:30 at the AG Center.

**Thanks-giving Day**  
**Quotes:**



May your stuffing be tasty  
May your turkey plump,  
May your potatoes and gravy  
Have nary a lump.  
May your yams be delicious  
And your pies take the prize,  
And may your Thanksgiving dinner  
Stay off your thighs!  
~Author Unknown

Lord, 'tis Thy plenty-dropping hand  
That soils my land,  
And giv'st me for my bushel sowne  
Twice ten for one.  
All this, and better, Thou dost send  
Me, to this end,  
That I should render, for my part,  
A thankful heart.  
~Robert Herrick

## NOVEMBER 2008

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



## DECEMBER 2008

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

## Gardening News:

### Hospitality Notes

Greetings from your Hospitality Committee

We are excited about the 2008 Hamilton County Master Gardener **Christmas Party** and Meeting. It will be held at the **Chester Frost Pavilion** (*not Abba's house*) **12-4-08 @ 6:30**. One of the most fun parts of the evening is our gift exchange – bring a gift, take a gift (value around \$10-15). The courtesy of your offer to bring a dish to pass, beverages, and or ice, is much appreciated. We will provide place settings and accommodations. This will be beautiful and relaxing. Please sign up so that we can prepare appropriately. The sign-up sheet will be at the next MG Meet. 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.

### The Princeton American Elm

At one time there were over 100 million elms growing in North America. George Washington's favorite spot in Washington, D.C. to get away from lobbyists was under an elm tree. To carry on the tradition in Washington D.C. the park service planted the Princeton American Elm along Pennsylvania Ave. Elm is the most popular street name in the United States. In the 1930's a beetle arrived on a load of lumber from Europe that infected and decimated the elm tree population with Dutch Elm Disease.

This Princeton American Elm tree is available in Chattanooga at select nurseries including The Barn Nursery.

The Princeton American Elm has many positive features. Among them are:

- A. Highly resistant to Dutch Elm Disease
- B. True American Elm, not a hybrid
- C. No surface roots
- D. Extremely tolerant of local conditions

Fast growing

By Jack Townsend  
Master Gardener

## Tom's Tidbits for November 2008 Master Gardeners Green Up Fair

The Hamilton County Master Gardeners hit another home run with their exhibit at the fair. The theme was "Gardening Green". There were wonderful exhibits and posters on all things green in the garden. There was a living roof which captures rainwater. Water ran down rain chains into rain barrels. The water from the barrels was used to water plants in the garden. Exhibits on raised bed vegetables, composting, worms and carnivorous plants were also attention getters. All of this exposure led to our invitation to set-up a mini-exhibit at Green Odyssey in Chattanooga at Miller Plaza downtown. We caught the lunch crowd and many were interested in the Master Gardener program. In addition, I was invited to be part of the Chattanooga Neighborhood Conference downtown at the Convention Center. I explained the efforts of the Master Gardeners to promote environmentally sound gardening practices. This past weekend was a continuation of this outreach at the Food Bank Plant Sale. There was an instructional rain barrel workshop given by Jeff Jarrett and Melissa Wehman. Plus, several more birdhouses were sold. Meanwhile, up at Re-

flection Riding Arboretum, Bud Hines gave a riveting demonstration on composting.

Many Master Gardeners also helped with AgVentures at the County Fair. This was the second year for this project. We taught the kids the value of potatoes. Four schools were invited to the fair for a preview.

Several Master Gardeners even helped judge the vegetable entries. It was their job to pick the blue ribbon winners.

Thanks to all who pulled these projects together. We all learned a lot from the experience.

For Masterful Gardens  
Tom



### Gardening News:

**Association names Hosta of the Year**

The [American Hosta Growers Assoc.](#) chose 'Earth Angel' as its 2009 Hosta of the Year. Introduced by Hans Hansen at [Shady Oaks Nursery](#) in 2002, 'Earth Angel' has large, heart-shaped, blue-green leaves with a wide, creamy-white border. Pale-lavender flowers top the clump in early summer. 'Earth Angel' is a variegated form of 'Blue Angel.'

### **Michigan nursery starts pot recycling program**

[Goldner Walsh Nursery](#) in Pontiac, Mich., has started its own pot recycling program, [MLive.com](#) reported. The store is collecting all plastic pots and flats regardless of color of the type of plastic. Goldner Walsh owner Tim Travis said he started the program to help motivate the nursery industry to make recycling part of its culture. "This program leads to a whole new approach to waste management and can cross over to many other practices that are environmentally-based," he said. "The green industry is actually the least green of industries because we are heavy users of utilities and generate a lot of waste."

## Gardening News:

### President's Letter continued:

This was an area for everybody. The children were fascinated with the rain barrel and the composting. People could see how easy it is to recycle and reproduce from items we use daily. The storm water area with the bog plants was also a hit for children as they came upon the illustration of the carnivorous plants. There is so much talent added to this club. If you attended the setup or breakdown you should have been able to network within our organization. Everybody worked so well putting together the layouts of the plans of each committee. And what a beautiful layout once again for the fair goers to walk through. Because of so many caring and concerned members we were able to construct every phase without any changes being made. I believe many of you were able to complete your certification through the hours that went into the planning and construction of the Gardening green exhibit. Don't forget to record your hours and get the paper work to Gretchen Rominger. Thank you fair Chairman and committees!

This was the first year that we were able to walk through so many master gardeners' gardens—thanks to the organizing of master gardener Nancy Ralhan. I hope you all were able to visit the many gardens this year. Thank you, Nancy and everybody who participated in sharing your gardens. Nancy, great job in the organizing of the tour of gardens. We have enjoyed all the talented people who invited us to visit their gardens. You can all be very proud of your gardens.

I would also like to thank the hospitality committee, Tom Stebbins and everybody who took time to go on air or appear on TV to promote the County Fair exhibit. And a big THANK YOU to everyone of you, your family and friends. We have successfully completed our goal of \$21,000.00 to the Chattanooga Area Food bank.

Thank you!

**Linda Billingslea**

## Gardening Funnies:

- In spring, both gardeners and golfers begin plowing.
- A beautiful garden is something most people will only turn over in their minds.
- I know one lay fellow who bragged about his phenomenal garden luck – nothing came up.
- Usually, a man who makes his own flowerbed has to lie about it, not in it.



**MASTER GARDENERS OF  
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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

**Board of Governors**

**2008-2009**

**Master Gardener Officers:**

**President– Linda Billingslea**

**Vice President– Jeff Jarrett**

**Secretary– Ron Bohrer**

**Treasurer– Pasty Boles**

**Past President/Advisor– Stephanie  
Payne**

**Master Gardener Coordinator–  
Tom Stebbins**

**Certification Officer-Gretchen Rom-  
inger**

**New Class Rep: Cheryl Hamrick**

**1 Year Members**

**Bud Hines**

**Jim Keown**

**Joy Wooden**

**2 Year Members**

**James Gumnick**

**Karen Webster**

**Rena Keane**

**Master Gardeners Committee**

**Chairpersons-**

**Bonny Oaks Arboretum:**

**Elaine Barker**

**Budget/Finance:**

**Pasty Boles**

**County Fair Committee-**

**Bud Hines**

**Jim Keown**

**Crabtree Garden Plot:**

**Linda Billingslea**

**Food Bank Garden Tour:**

**Susan Babineau**

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**Donna Adams**

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**Denise Chivington**

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Chairperson:**

**Mike Payne**

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**Project Committee:**

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**Newsletter Committee:**

**Gina Turley**

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**Gretchen Rominger**

**Website Committee:**

**Mike Smith**