



Master Gardeners of Wilson County

Leaves of Wisdom

Junior Master Gardeners Program: Educating the master gardeners of the future

By Debbie Williams, Class of 2018



Junior Master Gardeners is an international program designed to help kids become passionate about gardening through learning, success, and service. Our Master Gardeners of Wilson County president, Maryann Hicks, recently attended the Junior Master Gardener National Leader Training in College Station, Texas, on the Texas A&M campus. The program is sponsored by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service and offers curriculum for Grades 1-4 (Level 1), Grades 5-8 (Level 2), as well as recently adding a preschool program.

Maryann had noticed that several Tennessee counties have Junior Master Gardener programs. This sparked her interest in the program because, as a former elementary school teacher, children are her passion. The program is not just offered by master gardeners but also by 4-H groups, botanical garden's education programs, after-school care entities, and

summer camps. The flexibility of program makes it adaptable to many children's educational forums.

Some of the proven benefits of the program include children

- learning all about plants, their care, diseases, insects, soil preparation, etc.;
- increasing physical activity;
- increasing exposure to different vegetables and tastes;
- trying and preparing healthy recipes;
- improving self-esteem and interest in community.

Maryann gave an example of an assignment asking a child to do research on a vegetable, then to develop a commercial to encourage others to try the vegetable. Enthusiastic about what Junior Master Gardeners has to offer Wilson County youth, she was lucky enough to win the grand prize at the conference—a complete Level 1 Curriculum, which is a \$250 value. Be watching for more information about this exciting opportunity in the months to come.

To learn more about the Junior Master Gardener Program: <https://jmgkids.us/>

President's Note



Maryann and Reveille, the Texas A&M mascot.

Ahhhh! Springtime... the season in which Master Gardeners emerge from their cocoons to begin digging in the dirt and working on all kinds of projects. And what a time to be a part of Master Gardeners of Wilson County. Our mission is “to empower residents to improve their lawns and gardens with research-

based horticultural information, while promoting environmental stewardship.” I see us reaching out to the community and promoting environmental stewardship in so many ways lately. Recently, we were asked to work at the Nashville Lawn and Garden Show. Our volunteers signed up to work every day of the show. The show staff was so appreciative. The following week, we processed and distributed over 2,300 native trees to businesses and individuals as we partnered with Friends of Cedars of Lebanon and the Tennessee Environmental Council for Tennessee Tree Day 2022.

I am so excited about two new proposals just approved by the board. The first is to partner with Vine Branch Fellowship, an organization run by two of our current interns, Alex and Shené Scott. They plant and maintain community gardens at schools and other locations. Next is a proposal presented by Rose and Donnie Skaggs and Debbie Williams to begin research and development of an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant “Enabling Garden” with careful planning and modifications to allow gardening opportunities for all. Both are big undertakings, but I have heard nothing but enthusiasm from members about moving forward with these programs.

With all the difficult things going on in our world, it's nice to have some positive news and events going on in our Master Gardener community.

Happy Spring, Everyone!!!

Maryann Hicks
President

2022 MGWC Intern Class

The MGWC Intern Class for 2022 is going well according to Joni Wohnrade. Their last class will be on Wednesday, April 20th, and there will be an In-

tern Garden Project Preview on Saturday, April 23rd. There are 23 new interns who will be graduating at our May MGWC meeting on May 3rd.



Photo by Deb Williams



Photo by Deb Williams

New projects for MGWC

By Debbie Williams, Class of 2018

At the March 29th Master Gardeners of Wilson County Executive Board meeting, two new projects were preliminarily approved by the Board.

Master gardener volunteers are needed to help with the **Vine Branch Fellowship's** (www.VineBranchFellowship.org) **elementary school garden program** in Lebanon. One of the Fellowship's goals is to build a garden at each of Lebanon's elementary schools. The Fellowship (which is led by two of our new interns, Alex and Shené Scott) already has one garden operating at **Byars-Dowdy Elementary**. They need **two volunteers once a week during the summer** to help maintain this garden while the children are out of school. Other gardens are currently being built at Lebanon schools and will need summer volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, email vinebranchfellowship@gmail.com.

The Board also approved exploratory research into the development of an **Enabling Garden** to be built and maintained by our organization. Enabling gardens are designed to enable those who **are disabled, aging, or have limited mobility/mobility challenges to garden along with children and the general public**. Next steps are to contact the City of Lebanon to identify potential sites and to begin contacting potential sponsors. If you would like to volunteer with this project, email Rose Skaggs at rosemarielskaggs@gmail.com. [Click here to see the full proposal.](#)



Bees need these early spring flowers so don't think they are just weeds. Be kind to bees, we can't survive without them. Photo by Dwayne Smith



Spring Fest in the Grove Plant Sale is a great volunteer opportunity for Master Gardeners of Wilson County. Volunteers are needed for set-up, working the sale, and for clean-up afterwards. Contact Marianne Pelletier at breezin1usa@yahoo.com to sign up.

Tennessee Tree Day



Tennessee Tree Day volunteers busy putting tree orders together.
Photo by Maryann Hicks



Essie Shehane keeping orders organized with labels. Photo by Maryann Hicks



Carol Hofer making sure the sapling roots are kept moist. Photo by Maryann Hicks.



Tree Day saplings all ready to be given away! Photo by Rosemary Marshall

This newsletter supports the Tennessee Extension Master Garden Program in providing research-based, innovative and usable horticulture information to all Tennessee residents through a dedicated and skilled volunteer network.

Help raise money for the Master Gardeners of Wilson County by:

Shop at AmazonSmile
And Amazon will make
a donation to:
Master Gardeners of Wilson County



Here's how:

Go to the Amazon site.
Type smile.amazon.com into the search
bar.
Click on Select a charity.
In the Search box type Wilson County
Master Gardeners.
Always start your future Amazon pur-
chases at smile.amazon.com.



Click on picture to sign up for Kroger Community Rewards. Select Wilson County Master Gardeners for organization name.

the
BIG PAYBACK

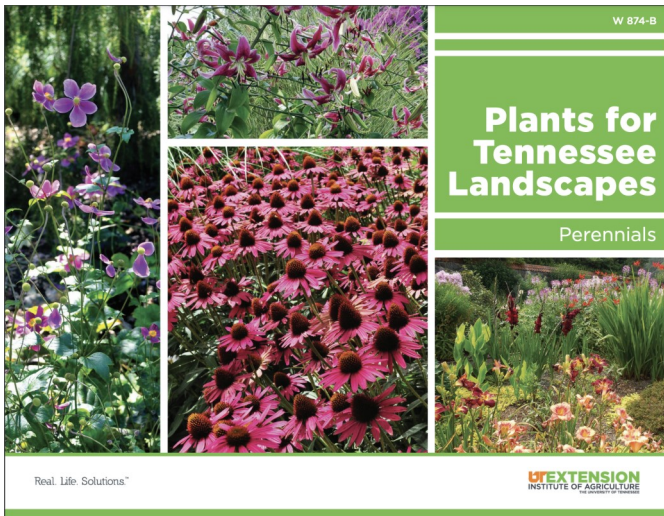
Presented by The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee

The Community Foundation has scheduled its Big Payback 2022 starting May 4 at 6 PM and ends 24 hours later on May 5. Please take the time to donate money toward the Wilson County Master Gardeners. We are listed on the [Nonprofits page](#) at www.TheBigPayback.org.

Spotlight: Extension Publications

Perennials for Tennessee Landscapes

Researched by Lauren May, Class of 2012



and soil needs as well as notes about wildlife and other topics. Best of all, this list was developed by Tennessee horticulturists for Tennessee gardeners! So, you know that these plants have been grown and trialed right here in our state.

By: [Celeste Scott](#) - Extension Agent, Madison County
[Carol Reese](#) - Western Region, Horticulture Extension Specialist
[Lee Sammons](#) - Extension Agent, Hardeman County
[Lucas Holman](#) - Extension Agent, Wilson County
[Joellen Dimond](#) - former Extension Agent, Tipton County
[Natalie Bumgarner](#) - Residential and Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, Department of Plant Sciences

Published by: University of Tennessee Extension
Date Published: August 2020

Link to Article: <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W874-B.pdf>
<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W874-B.pdf> Best Management Practices for Pruning Landscape Trees, Shrubs and Ground Covers ([tennessee.edu](https://extension.tennessee.edu))

Intro: There are so many plant options for home landscapes that it can sometimes be overwhelming to select new plants. This publication is a practical, easy to use guide to help you select the best plants for your landscape. It provides information on light

Growing Microgreens

By Debbie Williams, Class of 2018



Carrie Shehane (Class of 2019) is a busy mother, gardener, and business owner. She homeschools two children, gardens on her family's six acres, and owns an online company, **TennesseeCutleryCompany.com**, that sells knives and seeds.

This Mississippi native is a wellness advocate who encourages her family and others to lead healthy lifestyles and eat healthy foods. One of these

healthy foods is microgreens which she grows on a rotating basis. Her family nibbles on them and adds them to sandwiches, salads, and grain bowls.

Here are Carrie's suggestions for growing microgreens:

Container: Any food-grade tray or bowl can be used. No drainage holes are needed.

Soil: Carrie uses Pro-Mix, but any potting mix works.

Seeds: She recommends using non-GMO seeds and **Azure Standard** <https://www.azurestandard.com/> for purchasing seeds and materials. Carrie serves as a Drop Manager for this company. See the website for more info.

Who Do I Contact?

2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

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Joni Wohnrade joni.wohnrade@hotmail.com

If you need to contact one of the bed heads or any other Wilson County Master Gardener, you can go to UT Extension website where you register your hours. Click on **Home**. A dropdown box will appear. Click on **County Roster**, and you will find a list of contact info for all WCMG members.

2022 Major Demonstration Gardens Projects

PROJECT	LOCATION	THEME	CHAIRS
Fiddlers Grove Demonstration Flower Beds	All through Fiddlers Grove, Wilson County Fairgrounds	13 individual garden beds, different themes	Marianne Pelletier breezin1usa@yahoo.com
Fiddlers Grove Demonstration Vegetable Garden	Fiddlers Grove, next to Master Gardeners' Building	Showcase garden, experimental, plants change each year	Rosemary Marshall marshall2171@sbcglobal.net Joni Wohnrade joniwohnrade@hotmail.com
Mt. Juliet Community Labor of Love Garden	Charlie Daniels Park, Mt Juliet	A working raised bed vegetable garden	Jan Littrell jlittrell51@gmail.com
Cedars of Lebanon Native Plant and Butterfly Garden	Cedars of Lebanon State Park, behind Nature Center	Native plants, trees and shrubs to attract and support butterflies	Linda Robertson lcr.gwr@gmail.com Kathy Powers kathyjantz@gmail.com
Baddour Parkway Arboretum	All through Fiddlers Grove	A certified arboretum with 71 trees from 46 unique genus	Donnie Skaggs BPATrees@protonmail.com
Mt. Juliet Library Gardens	2765 N Mt Juliet Road	Several gardens to attract butterflies and birds	Ronnie Gammons gitley41@bellsouth.net Patti Stein mommabear329@yahoo.com

2022 Fiddlers Grove Demonstration Flower Beds

BED NAME	THEME	LEADERS
Grandmother's Garden	Old-fashioned flowers that our grandmothers grew	Joni Wohnrade joniwohnrade@hotmail.com
Jordan House Patio Garden	Pollinator-friendly perennials and annuals	Maryann Hicks mwhicks2011@yahoo.com JoAnne Davis davisjoanne88@ymail.com
Medicinal Herb Garden	Herbs pioneers may have used for health and healing	Stephanie Powers stephpowers06@gmail.com
Mobile Containers	Flower displays to beautify spaces and direct visitors through fairgrounds	Marianne Pelletier breezin1usa@yahoo.com
Fiddlers Grove Monarch Way Station	Plants to support monarch butterflies on their journeys north and south	No leader
Mr. Luther's Shade Garden	Plants that thrive in the shade	Vicki Folsom vickifolsom@icloud.com
Rice Cabin	Annuals and perennials suitable for an historic cabin	Fran Strausburg frans37807@hotmail.com David Bates david.bates00@yahoo.com
Fiddlers Grove Town Hall Entrance	A sidewalk boxwood garden	Gina Stayhich cherry4elvis@gmail.com
Sedum Bed	A collection of sun-loving succulents	Carol Walenga carolwalenga@tds.net
Veterans Porch Garden	Perennials that thrive in sun and heat	Sue Abernathy glorypal@yahoo.com
Master Gardener Building Entrance and Memory Garden	A showcase of small trees, shrubs and flowers	Ed Jacobs ejacobs153@aol.com Linda Kovacs linda.kovacs9@icloud.com
Melrose Church Garden	A collection of shrubs and flowers	Rosemary Marshall marshall2171@sbc.net Tina Benson nichols.benson@gmail.com
Rowland Barn Rain Garden	Plants that thrive in a small catch basin for rain	Gina Stayhich cherry4elvis@gmail.com



Celandine poppies blooming at the Butterfly Garden. Photo by Patricia Petrous



Witchhazel blooming at Melrose Church. Photo by Rosemary Marshall

Master gardeners partner with Friends of Cedars of Lebanon to hold Native Plant Sale Saturday, May 21

By Tina Benson, Class of 2018

Master Gardeners of Wilson County has, for the first time, joined Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State Park in hosting the annual Tennessee Native Plant Sale at the park.

Seven years ago, Friends of Cedars of Lebanon began selling native plants at the Elsie Quarterman Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival to encourage community use of native plants to support pollinators, bees, butterflies. The sale soon outgrew the festival.

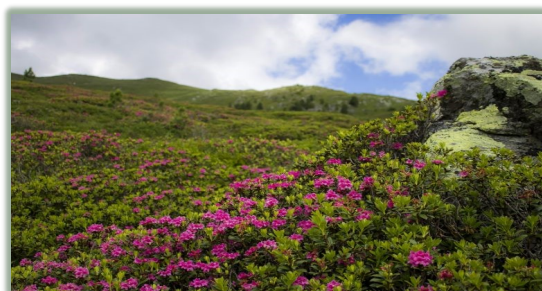
This year master gardeners participated in winter sowing of plants for the sale, ensuring that knowledge of propagation of Tennessee natives will be passed on into institutional knowledge. For many years, Linda Robertson — the visionary responsible for the creation of the Dixon Merritt Pollinator and Wildlife Garden at Cedars of Lebanon State Park — has largely propagated all plants for the sale herself. This year, she shared her knowledge with 20 master gardeners who helped with winter sowing. Together they planted 46 species of native seeds in December.

Master gardeners will assist with the potting up of seedlings, grooming last year's plants for resale, cleaning up for inspection, transporting plants, setting up and cleaning up at the sale. Also offered in the sale will be 30 more species of vines, trees, grass, and flowers planted or started from cuttings from last year.

Because a warm December caused some of the plants to sprout prematurely, Tom and Phyllis Hunter of American Heritage Trees and master gardener Gina Stayshich, offered shelter in their greenhouses. Plants for the sale are thriving.

In addition to offering Middle Tennessee gardeners a source for healthy native plants, the sale provides an opportunity to educate visitors about individual plants as well as about the ecological advantages of using plants that co-evolved with native insects and wildlife. Native plants act as hosts and nectar sources for butterflies, moths, and other essential pollinators. In turn, insects provide a food source for birds and other animals in the food chain.

**Tennessee Extension Master Gardener
State Conference
June 9th-11th in Kingsport, TN**



**For more information regarding the
State Conference, click on the picture.**

April 2022 EVENTS of INTEREST

Mt. Juliet High School Plant Sale	Wednesday, April 6, 2022 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Continues until sold out Cash/Check	Mt. Juliet High School 1875 Golden Bear Gtwy. Mt. Juliet, TN 37122f
UT Gardens Spring Spectacular Plant Sale	Saturday, April 9, 2022 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	UT Gardens 2518 Jacob Drive Knoxville, TN 37996
Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee Plant Sale	Saturday, April 9, 2022 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Nashville Fairgrounds 625 Smith Avenue Nashville, TN 37203 Plant Societies in Tennessee Gardening Clubs in Tennessee (ppsmtn.org)
Wilson Central High School Plant Sale	Begins April 11, 2022	Wilson Central High School 419 Wildcat Way Lebanon, TN 37090
Lebanon FFA Greenhouse Sale	April 12—8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 13 & 14—8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 15—8 a.m. to 12 noon April 16—8 a.m. to 12 noon	Lebanon High School 500 Blue Devil Boulevard Lebanon, TN 37087
Watertown High School Plant Sale	Begins April 12, 2022 Continues until sold out Cash/Check	Watertown High School 9360 Sparta Pike Watertown, TN 37184
Green Hill High School Plant Sale	Begins April 13, 2022—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Continues until sold out. Accepts cash, check, Venmo	Green Hill High School 220 Old North Greenhill Road Mt. Juliet, TN 37122
Cumberland County Master Gardeners Flower, Lawn & Garden Sale	April 22 & April 23, 2022 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day	Cumberland County Community Complex (Fairgrounds) 1397 Livingston Road Crossville, TN 38571
MGWC Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, April 26, 2022 6:30 p.m.	TBD
Cedar Glade Wildflower Festival	April 29 & April 30, 2022 (check website for times)	Cedars of Lebanon State Park 328 Cedar Forest Road Lebanon, TN 37090 C9DC1D20-F5F1-42B1-A3C8E57F57B4B337.pdf (tnstateparks.com)
Nashville Herb Society Plant Sale	Saturday, April 30, 2022 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Nashville Fairgrounds 500 Wedgewood Avenue, Expo 3 Nashville, TN 37203

Click here to log your project hours and CEUs

[Tennessee Master Gardener](#)

May 2022 EVENTS of INTEREST

MGWC Membership Meeting	Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6:30 p.m.	Arnett Building
University of Tennessee Jackson Spring Plant Sale	May 6, 2022 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 7, 2022 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.	West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center 605 Airways Blvd. Jackson, TN 38301
Spring Fest in the Grove	Saturday, May 7, 2022 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Fiddlers Grove 945 E Baddour Parkway Lebanon, TN 37087
Wild Ones Native Plant & Seed Sale	Saturday, May 14, 2022 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary 545 Beech Creek Road S. Brentwood, TN 37027
Friends of Cedars of Lebanon/Master Gardeners of Wilson County Native Plant Sale	Saturday, May 21, 2022 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Cedars of Lebanon State Park 328 Forest Road Lebanon, TN 37090
MGWC Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:30 p.m.	TBD

Note: This calendar was created on 4/6/22. Events may change.



[Click here to download calendar](#)



Virginia Springbeauty. Photo by Rose Skaggs



Who's looking at you! Photo by Deb Williams