



Leaves of Wisdom

Congratulations, 2023 MGWC Interns



Photo by Deb Williams

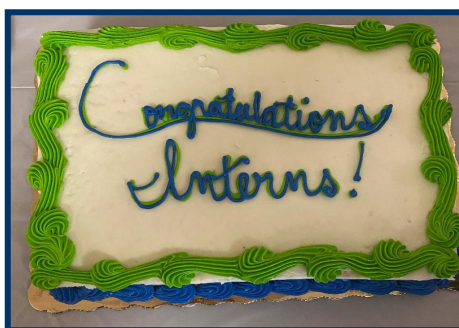


Photo by Deb Williams



President's Note



Maryann telling home school group about pollinators. Photo by Rosemary Marshall

Many Successes

As usual, Master Gardeners of Wilson County is an extremely busy organization and has had some very successful

events recently. I just want to take a minute to recap those events and thank the many volunteers who have worked so hard to achieve that success.

First, our native plant sale could not have been better. Despite the downpour as the sale began, customers were lined up waiting to shop for their treasures. We had 110 species of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials for sale, and we made around \$10,000! Not only is this a great fund raiser, but a wonderful educational event that fits our mission statement perfectly. This event would not have been possible without the incredible leadership and dedication of Linda Robertson and Debbie Williams. Their vision, knowledge, and year-round hard work made this sale possible. There were so many other people who spent countless hours planting, potting up plants, and setting up for the sale. We had lots of new interns who jumped right in and helped. We can't thank you enough. A former Cedars of Lebanon park director stopped by the sale and said he believes ours is the largest native plant sale in the state!!!

Our garden tour committee has put together a series of garden tours, with the initial one happening a couple weeks ago as we toured the magnificent gar-

dens of Marianne Pelletier and Joeleen Davis. What a great day! A tour of Bill Brooks's garden is scheduled for July, and a September tour of several gardens in the Stonebridge neighborhood is planned. Again, many, many thanks to the committee and those of you who are opening up your gardens for us to learn from and enjoy.

We have had two successful events helping to nurture our gardeners of the future in the last two months. Master Gardener volunteers helped with Farm Days and 4-H day camp. Thanks to those volunteers for giving their time and effort helping kids, and, of course, a special thanks to our own extension agent, Lucas Holman, for being such a good sport about being our long-nosed pine borer beetle! (Surely someone has pictures of that!)

Have you looked around Fiddlers Grove lately? The gardens and the arboretum trees look amazing. The theme for the demo garden this year is "Victory Gardens." I think this will be a great educational display and will inspire fair visitors to give gardening a try.

I know the Mt. Juliet Library garden and Labor of Love Garden at Charlie Daniels Park are looking good also. The Cedars of Lebanon pollinator garden is in full bloom. Day Camp is coming up for Vine Branch Fellowship, and hopefully we will have some volunteers ready to help with that. So again, many thanks to each of you for continuing to work hard to accomplish our mission. There are plenty of opportunities to get volunteer hours right now. Be sure to go to the website to sign up for fair hours or spend a few hours working in any of our gardens.

Happy planting!
Maryann
President

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.

Wilson County Master Gardener Association,

Just a note of appreciation & heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked on the Native Plant Sale. We planted seeds, wrapped them & set them out in flats so Mother Nature could work her magic over the winter. When spring finally arrived we potted up seedlings, tended, guarded & fertilized them until sale time, a seven month process.

It couldn't have been done without the huge effort of communication & organizational, & gardening skills of our members, who worked so very hard to get these plants into the market to satisfy customer needs. This project has never been about making money as much as it has been about satisfying the demand for plants that support our local pollinators, birds & animals, otherwise known as our food web or ecosystem.



Photo by Deb Williams



Photo by Deb Williams



Photo by Deb Williams

Mother Nature has provided for us from the beginning & she is calling out to us now, because she is under stress on land, sea, water & air as never before. These plants are a small effort for us to do our part to lend her support & be her friend.

I hear the words of Bill Withers in his song, "Lean on Me" telling us to assure Mom Nature to, "Lean on me, when you're not strong. I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on."

So, THANKS to WCMG for being my long time friend & so generously helping to support a healthy earth, our tiny blue pearl that floats out in space, the only home we all have.

Most Sincere Appreciation,
Linda Robertson



Photo by Deb Williams



Photo by Linda Robertson

A June Garden Tour Retrospective: Exploring the Beauty of 2 Wilson County Master Gardeners' Unique Gardens

Tonya Gardener, Class of 2020

On June 17, 2023, 26 of our Master Gardeners had the pleasure of embarking on two delightful garden tours. The tour started in the morning at Marianne Pelletier's Watertown home, where we were immediately drawn into the lovely garden she has created. It is a fenced and gated garden with a central arbor of wisteria and multiple beds of native Tennessee flowers, as well as raised bed vegetable gardens. The tour showcased a delightful greenhouse, a restful gazebo and even a charming chicken coop, adding to the overall appeal of the experience.

The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly the flower garden with its thoughtful design and unique structures which were built by her husband. The wooden obelisks and metal artwork he designed were an absolute visual feast. As we strolled along the meticulously designed beds and stood under the shade of several trees, Marianne expertly shared the history of how her garden has evolved over the years, as well as what she has learned from her time in the garden. We were surrounded by a vibrant tapestry of colors and the natural beauty she worked into her garden design using rocks from her property. From the graceful blooms of asters, hydrangeas and rudbeckia to the vivid colors of the coreopsis and liatris, the garden was a true celebration of Tennessee's floral heritage. The expertly curated collection of textures and colors highlighted the unique beauty and resilience of these native plants, inspiring us all to incorporate a little of what Marianne's garden taught us into our own landscapes.

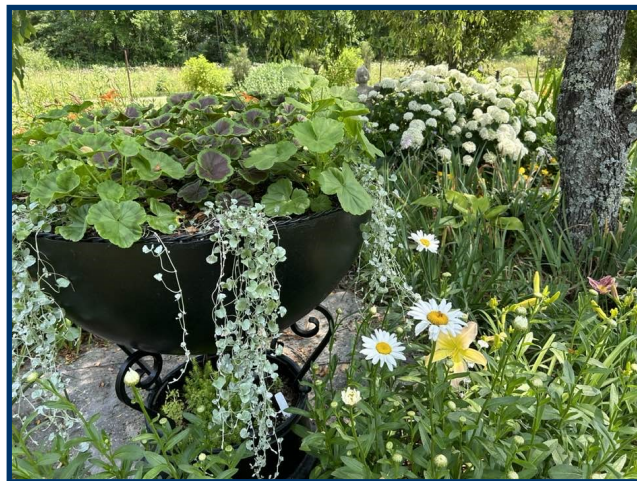
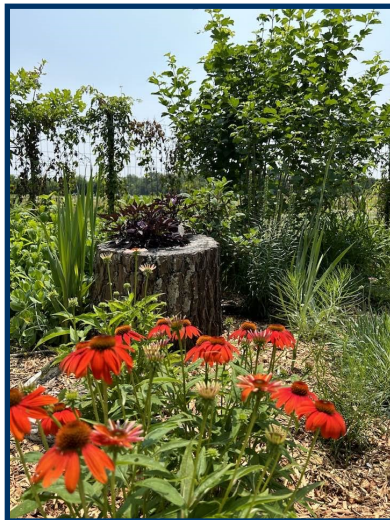
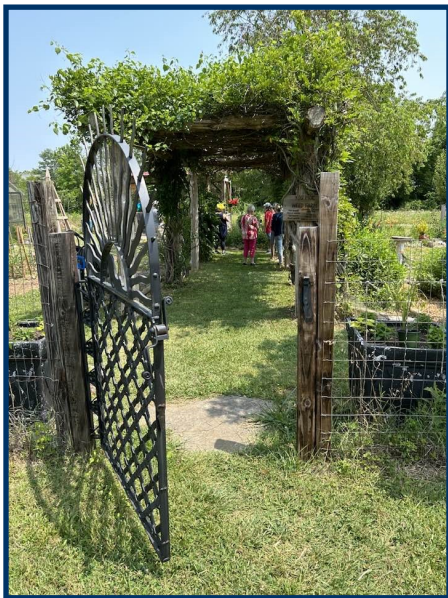
Next on the agenda was the afternoon garden tour of Joeleen Davis' "Wine Cottage Garden" in Lebanon. Joeleen and her husband, Doug, have created

a raised vegetable bed oasis, which highlighted sustainable and organic gardening practices. The neatly arranged beds were filled with a variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers, showcasing the ingenuity of maximizing space and optimizing yields. The well-tended soil and healthy plants, as well as the visual design of her garden, pointed directly to Joeleen's dedication to use artistic design to enhance the gardening experience. As we milled about her garden, it was clear why her garden has been twice featured on the beloved PBS gardening show "Volunteer Gardener."

Joeleen's garden also included a visit to her charming wine cottage, her newly established bird sanctuary garden, Doug's chicken coop where we met his lively flock of hens, and a delightful greenhouse that sparked the urge to get our hands dirty. At every turn of the tour, we were greeted with a unique garden flourish of antiques she has collected through the years and incorporated into the garden to add to its charm. Along the way, Joeleen and Doug shared fascinating insights about the garden's history and hurdles, as well as stories of the antique and reclaimed pieces they've incorporated, making the experience both educational and enjoyable.

Marianne's and Joeleen's beautiful and unique gardens left us all inspired to try new techniques in our own gardens and maybe even integrate some art and whimsy into our landscapes. We are so grateful to them both for their hospitality and zest for gardening. Please join us for our next garden tour on July 12.

MARIANNE PELLITIER'S GARDEN



Photos by Rose Skaggs



Summer Garden Tour Series featuring Master Gardeners of Wilson County

June Tour

(morning and afternoon tour sites with a break for lunch between sites)
If you cannot tour both gardens, you may RSVP for am or pm. (Carpooling encouraged.)

June 17th 10-12 am

Marianne Pelletier - 5380 S. Commerce Rd Watertown, TN 37184

Garden features: vegetable garden (raised beds and traditional), flower gardens, small greenhouse, and chickens

June 17th 1-3 pm

Joeleen Davis - 187 Clemmons Ln Lebanon, TN 37090

Garden features: Raised bed gardens with reclaimed elements and cedar, Wine Cottage, chicken coop. Joeleen's garden was featured twice on Volunteer Gardener on PBS

RSVP to Tonya Gardner 615-477-5776

July Tour

July 12 10am-2pm (drop-in)

Bill Brooks - 805 Gina Ct Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Garden features: 30 beds, Christian themes, 3/4 mile trail, 5 sitting areas, lots of mature trees with lots of shade
(Carpooling encouraged.)

RSVP to Deanna Jackson 615-497-1115

MGWC Garden Tour Committee:

Suzanne Dunn
Deanna Jackson
Sara Chodl
Stephanie Powers
Tonya Gardner

September Tour

Sept 9 10am-1pm

Tina Benson and her Stonebridge Master Gardener neighbors

1008 Waterstone Dr Lebanon, TN 37090

Garden features: Native plants with emphasis on keystone plants for pollinators and wildlife
(Carpooling encouraged.)

RSVP to Sara Chodl 419-215-3121

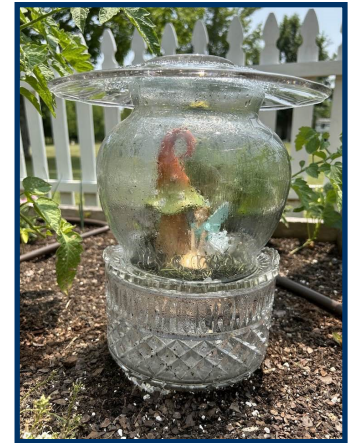
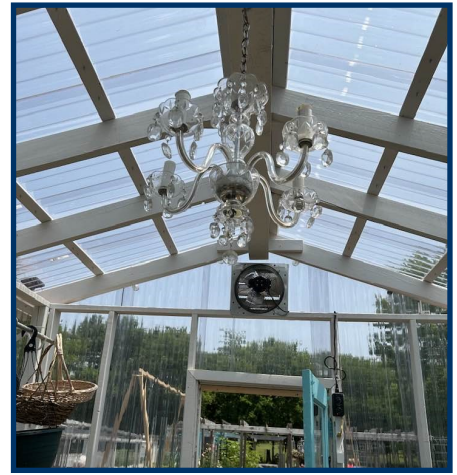


Reminder: If at all possible, please try to take care of any bathroom visits before arriving at the garden tour location.

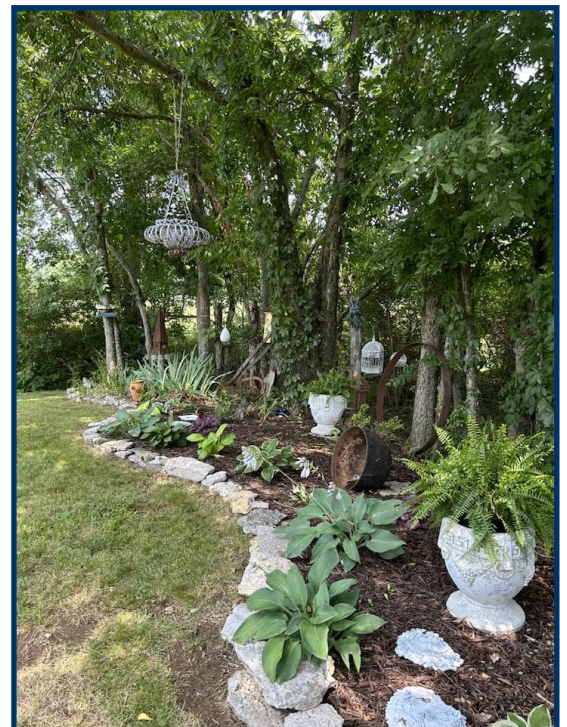
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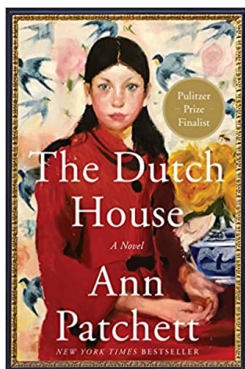


Photos by Rose Skaggs



Book Review: A Captivating Tale of Love, Loss, and the Dutch House

By Tonya Gardner, Class of 2022



"The Dutch House" by Ann Patchett is a beautifully crafted novel that takes readers on an emotional journey through the intricacies of family dynamics and the enduring power of memories. Patchett's ability to weave together complex characters and intricate plotlines is the heart and soul of this gripping tale.

At the heart of the story is the Dutch House, a grand mansion located in the suburbs of Philadelphia. The house serves as a central character, with its lavish interiors, opulent history, and the indelible mark it leaves on the lives of its inhabitants. The story unfolds through the eyes of Danny Conroy, who, along with his sister Maeve, is forced to navigate a tumultuous upbringing and an unexpected change in their family's fortunes.

Patchett's writing is elegant and expressive, drawing readers into the lives of the Conroy siblings and the captivating world of the Dutch House. She skillfully explores the themes of love, loss, and the lasting impact of childhood experiences. The complex relationship between Danny and Maeve forms the emotional backbone of the novel, highlighting the deep bonds that can exist between siblings and the complexities that can arise within families.

The author's attention to detail is impeccable, bringing the Dutch House to life with its vivid descrip-

tions and the rich history that haunts its halls. Patchett effortlessly merges the past and the present, revealing the layers of the characters' lives and the lingering effects of their past traumas. The book transcends time, seamlessly shifting between different decades, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of the characters' motivations and the choices they make.

What makes "The Dutch House" truly a compelling is the array of flawed and fascinating characters that populate its pages. Each character is given depth and nuance, making them relatable. Danny's narration is introspective, allowing readers to explore the complexity of his emotions and the impact of his upbringing. (In the audio version of this book, Tom Hanks is the narrator and effortlessly transports you into the novel.) Maeve, with her resilience and unwavering support for her brother, is a standout character, providing a counterbalance to Danny's introspection.

"The Dutch House" is compelling and thought-provoking read. Ann Patchett's storytelling shines through and will resonate with readers who appreciate well-crafted stories that delve into the depths of human emotions, leaving a lasting impression and a yearning for more long after the final page has been turned.

NOTE: Ann Patchett is a Nashvillian and part owner of Parnassus Books in the Green Hills area.

Plants found nowhere else in the world thrive in glades of Wilson, Rutherford counties

By Tina Benson, Class of 2018

The fragile cedar glades of Middle Tennessee, characterized by limestone bedrock and thin or non-existent soil, is home to plants found nowhere else in the world. These “endemic” plants have developed ways of surviving in an ecosystem that is often wet in winter and hot and dry in summer. Some have roots that wend their way through fissures in the limestone in search of water. Others have developed ways of storing precious water when it becomes available. Inhospitable to trees, Eastern red cedars (junipers) grow only in cracks in the bedrock where roots gain a foothold or on the margins of the glades. Glade limestone is slowly dissolved by slightly acidic rain, forming sinkholes, caves, and underground streams.

Seen for hundreds of years as wastelands, these limestone glades were identified and studied as fragile ecosystems by a Vanderbilt ecologist named Elsie Quarterman beginning in the early 1950s. The first woman to serve as an academic chair at Vanderbilt University, Dr. Quarterman rediscovered in 1969 a glade endemic, the native Tennessee coneflower, *Echinacea tennesseensis*, that was believed extinct. The Tennessee coneflower was the first

Tennessee native to be protected by the Endangered Species Act. Thanks to her efforts to reestablish the coneflower, it was removed from the endangered species list in 2011 and now can be found in Davidson, Wilson, and Rutherford counties.

Another glade endemic — limestone glade milk vetch or Pyne’s ground plum — was discovered by botanist Milo Pyne. It is found in only eight populations located within a few kilometers of each other in **Rutherford County, Tennessee**. The endangered plant is the subject of a study by the Missouri Botanical Garden to find the locations most likely to enable the plant to thrive.

A complete list of plants endemic to limestone glades is found on the Center for Glade Studies at Middle Tennessee State University website:

<https://www.mtsu.edu/glade-center/>

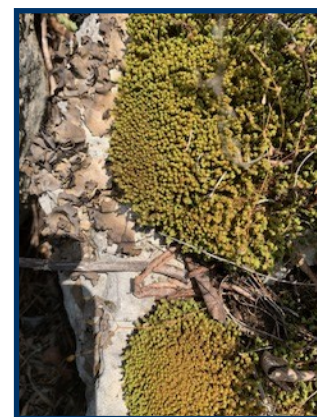
Long Hunter State Park, Stones River Battlefield, and Cedars of Lebanon State Park offer field trips into the glades led by naturalists.



Field of Tennessee coneflowers. Photo by Tina Benson



Prickly pear cactus. Photo by Tina Benson



Glade moss. Photo by Tina Benson

Mosquito Bucket of Doom

Kill mosquitoes in their larval stage

By Debbie Williams, Class of 2018

Mosquitoes are a nuisance in the summertime. They can even be dangerous because they can carry disease. Doug Tallamy on his website, Home-GrownNationalPark.org, recommends putting together a “mosquito bucket of doom” for killing mosquito larvae.

You will need:

- 1 5-gallon bucket (I substituted a more attractive large planter)
- Drill for making pencil-sized holes in the container
- Mosquito Dunk (BTi, the essential ingredient, will not harm lightning bugs, pets, etc.)

- Optional netting to tie the Dunk into
- Grass clippings
- Stick

Drill four pencil-sized holes about halfway down your container to keep it from overflowing during heavy rain. Fill your container to the drilled holes with water and throw in grass clippings. Break the Mosquito Dunk into 4 pieces. Place one Dunk piece in netting and tie it to the end of the stick. Submerge the Dunk piece. The stick is a precautionary measure to allow a butterfly or bird that accidentally fell into the bucket to be able to climb out. Replace the Mosquito Dunk once a month.



Perspective on Native Plants by Brock Chapman

Tracey Chapman, 2023 Intern



Brock and Levi Chapman
Photo by Tracey Chapman

Here is a perspective on the Native Plant Sale work by Tracey Chapman's 13-year old son, Brock, who volunteered with us along with his brother Levi.

It was a fine Tuesday morning and I was enjoying myself. That's when I heard my mom say "Brock, Levi". I was like oh crap. "We're going to do some gardening things for some people." I was like nooooo I don't want to go. When we got there though, I was surprised it was a very nice place.

The first thing that I learned was that if a worm has a white band and jumps, it is an invasive species. This means it does not have a predator and therefore needs to be killed. At first when I heard that I was like, who cares, but then it started to get fun because we were looking for them while doing the job.

The second thing I learned was that something that I thought was a weed was actually called a golden something. It was interesting because I thought they were weeds all along but they're not. It was also cool to hear all the names for each plant/ flower we were working with.

The last thing I learned was in different states there are plants that are born in that state. So they are meant for that state and they will grow better in that state. The girl that we helped had a bunch of native Tennessee plants. That was pretty cool because I didn't know that some plants do better in different states.

The three things that I learned were. A worm with a white band and jumps a lot is an invasive species, A plant I thought was a weed was actually called golden something, and some plants are native in different states.

Remember!

Make sure to log your volunteer hours at Fiddlers Grove and sign up for the many volunteer opportunities at the Fair. If the schedule is full, call Joni Wohnrade 815-271-2392.

[Fair Volunteer Signup Forms | Wilson County Master Gardener Association](#)
 [\(wilsoncountymg.org\)](http://wilsoncountymg.org)

Vinegar Weed Killer

By Debbie Williams, Class of 2018

Adapted from Family Handyman Magazine April-May 2023 page 45 by Ethan O'Donnell

You can make your own weed killer using concentrated vinegar. The article recommends 20% acetic acid, but the concentration I was able to purchase was 30%. This worked out because when I dissolved the salt for the mixture, I added water and heated the water and salt in the microwave, which diluted the vinegar. I found the vinegar solution to be a very effective weed killer, but I also found the

30% vinegar to be expensive at \$23 for a gallon. If you're looking for a more earth-friendly weed killer, you may want to give this a try. Mix the ingredients together in a spray bottle and spray directly on weeds (remember this will also kill desirable plants!). Spray on a sunny, windless day.

1 gallon of vinegar

1 oz. dish soap

1 cup of salt



Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Lebanon Education and Community Garden.



Native plants have been planted in front of the Lebanon Education and Community Garden. Photo by Rosemary Marshall

What's Cooking ...



The Recipe Box

It's tomato season....and time to start planning all the ways you can use your bountiful harvest! Here is a delicious idea to get you started.

Caprese Garlic Bread with Crispy Prosciutto

Prep Time: 20 min * Cook Time: 2 hrs * Servings: 8

Calories per Serving: 338 kcal

Recipe from Tieghan Gerard, Half-Baked Harvest, www.halfbakedharvest.com

Extra summery and easy to throw together, this simple, pretty bread comes together in just minutes!

Ingredients:

- 3 ounces prosciutto, torn
 - 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
 - 3 tablespoons champagne or apple cider vinegar
 - 2 teaspoon honey or maple
 - kosher salt and black pepper
 - chili flakes
 - 8 ounces burrata cheese
 - 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
 - 1 cup fresh basil, thinly sliced
 - 6 tablespoons salted butter
 - 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
 - 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
 - 1 loaf ciabatta bread, halved lengthwise
- 2 cloves garlic, halved

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and arrange the prosciutto in an even layer. Transfer to the oven and cook 8-10 minutes, until the prosciutto is crisp.
2. In a bowl, whisk together the olive oil, vinegar, honey or maple syrup, salt, pepper, and chili flakes. Add the tomatoes and basil, toss with the dressing.
3. In a bowl, mix the butter, parmesan, thyme, parsley, and a pinch of pepper.
4. Set your grill to medium-high heat. Rub each half of the bread with olive oil. Grill the bread, cut side down, for 3-5 minutes or until light grill marks appear. Remove and rub each half with 1 garlic clove, then spread the butter onto the grilled bread. Return to the grill and cook, cut side up until warmed, 3-5 minutes.
5. Break the burrata cheese over the warm grilled bread. Spoon over the tomatoes, top with fresh basil and crumbled prosciutto. Slice and serve!



Photo source from Tieghan Gerard, <https://www.halfbakedharvest.com/caprese-garlic-bread/>

Submitted by Lori Bornholtz—MGWC class of 22

Who Do I Contact?

2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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MASTER GARDENER
UT EXTENSION
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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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.

2023 Major Demonstration Gardens Projects			
PROJECT	LOCATION	THEME	CHAIRS
Baddour Parkway Arboretum	All through Fiddlers Grove	A certified arboretum with 71 trees from 46 unique genus	Rose and Donnie Skaggs BPATrees@protonmail.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	Rosemary Marshall marshall2171@sbcglobal.net Deb Shields debshields@comcast.net
Extension Office Demonstration Garden	Extension Office	Demonstration garden	Barbara Nissel niss1040@gmail.com
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	Barbara Nissel niss1040@gmail.com
Mt. Juliet Community Labor of Love Garden	Charlie Daniels Park, Mt Juliet	A working raised bed vegetable garden	Jan Littrell jlittrell51@gmail.com
Mt. Juliet Library Gardens	2765 N Mt Juliet Road	Several gardens to attract butterflies and birds	Ronnie Gammons gidley41@bellsouth.net Patti Stein mommabear329@yahoo.com

2023 Fiddlers Grove Demonstration Flower Beds		
BED NAME	THEME	LEADERS
Grandmother's Garden	Old-fashioned flowers that our grandmothers grew	Suzanne Dunn slw46123@gmail.com Deanna Jackson dmjackson1@dtccom.net 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	No leader
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 Stayshich 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@sbcglobal.net
Rowland Barn Rain Garden	Plants that thrive in a small catch basin for rain	Gina Stayshich cherry4elvis@gmail.com

July EVENTS of INTEREST

MGWC Membership Meeting Bo Arrington, speaker Make a new dish you've never tried before	Tuesday, July 11 6:30 p.m.	Veterans' Building
July Garden Tour	Wednesday, July 12 10:00-2:00 p.m. (drop-in) RSVP 615-497-1115 Deanna Jackson	Bill Brook's Garden 805 Gina Court Mt. Juliet
Summer Celebration	Thursday, July 13 8:00-4:00 p.m.	UT Gardens Jackson, TN
MGWC Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, July 25 6:30 p.m.	Master Gardener Building

August 2023 EVENTS of INTEREST

MGWC Membership Meeting Fair Bring something from your TN garden	Tuesday, August 1 6:30 p.m.	Opry Stage
Wilson County Fair TN State Fair	August 17-26	Fairgrounds
MGWC Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, August 29 6:30 p.m.	Master Gardener Building

September 2023 EVENTS of INTEREST

MGWC Membership Meeting Chris Cooper, speaker Comfort Casserole	Tuesday, September 5 6:30 p.m.	Veterans' Building
September Garden Tour	Saturday, September 9 10:00-1:00 p.m. RSVP 419-215-3121 Sara Chodl	Tina Benson & StoneBridge neighbors 1008 Waterstone Drive Lebanon
MGWC Executive Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 26 6:30 p.m.	Master Gardener Building

Don't forget to help raise money for our organization.



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



Great wooden obelisk by Tonya Gardner. Photo by Rosemary Marshall



Beautiful summer day at the Monarch Way Station. Photo by Rosemary Marshall



Clever planter idea by Suzanne Dunn. Photo by Rosemary Marshall



That is one big turnip grown at the Labor of Love Garden! Photo by Deb Williams



Monarch on Common Milkweed and a bee hovering nearby. Photo by Deb Williams

Tennessee Home Fruit and Vegetable Garden

2023 CALENDAR

Real. Life. Solutions.™

UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

[Click here to download calendar](#)

