

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL



WILLIAMSON COUNTY
EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Volume 11 | February 2020



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OUR ROOTS

A Message from our President

Welcome to both a new year and a new decade! This is going to be a marvelous time of growth, change, and challenges in our organization and I so look forward to sharing it with all of you. We have some new collaborations in the works, some new projects, and, thanks to all of your comments on the earlier survey, lots of new ideas about speakers, trips, and tours. Our organization is made up of a dedicated group of folks who logged.... drumroll.... over **10,000** volunteer hours last year!!! So, what's next? Well, if you're like me, I get a bit depressed when all the holiday madness is over and there's just dreary cold weather. But, then the new seed catalogs roll in and I start getting excited! My hellebores bloom and my crocuses begin to pop. So, now I'm looking out my window and trying to decide what to plant in each of my beds this spring. I check over my trees to see which ones need some attention while they are still dormant. I get my grow lights from the closet and set them up. I start inventorying my seeds and ordering more, which I DON'T need, but really, really want! In other words, this is a BUSY time for gardeners! And a new crop of Master Gardeners is about to launch with the 2020 intern class, beginning February 5th. Please take time to greet and welcome them if you see them at our monthly meetings or if you come to the classes. They're a bit nervous right now and need some TLC! Finally, I want to assure all of you that while I'm new to this position, I am always available to you. So is every member of your Board. Please call or email at any time and let me know what I can do to help. We are a TEAM of gardeners and every person needs to feel valued and respected. I know I'm very proud to be a part of this team.



WGMGA President

Linda Horton

VOL_ NTEE_ Means nothing unless U R in it

WCMGA SPEAKERS BUREAU

2020 Garden Talk Series

February 3: Some Seeds Like it Rough

We will learn about seed starting by focusing on seeds that need to be nicked, soaked or stratified. Practice some techniques and bring a sample home.

March 23 : Weeds 101

Are pesky weeds taking over your yard? Learn how to keep your lawn healthy so it can choke out most weeds. With a focus on environmental stewardship, we will discuss when it is appropriate to use an herbicide and how to use them safely. Learn the differences between selective and non-selective herbicides, pre- and post-emergent controls, and why selecting the right one matters. We will also talk about a few organic strategies.

April 13 : Monarch Waystations and Backyard Wildlife Habitats

Learn how to turn your garden into a Certified Monarch Waystation or a Certified Wildlife Habitat. We'll explore the process of certifying your garden and how doing so can help increase neighborhood awareness of our birds, butterflies and other critters.

Williamson County Public Library

1314 Columbia Ave. Franklin, TN 37064

All programs are *Monday 1:00-3:00 pm*

Registration is required.

Call (615) 595-1243 or

register online [here](#)

February 6: Soil Health and Composting

There is a lot going on in the soil beneath your feet. Discover natural ways to build healthy soil including the use of cover crops. Also learn how composting can enrich your garden soil.

March 26 : Pruning Shrubs

Does pruning your shrubs make you cringe with visions of killing your landscape plants? Then you'll want to join us as we explore the why, when and how of properly pruning and trimming conifers and ornamental shrubs in your yard.

April 2 : Fairy Gardens and Succulents

Tap into your imagination as we explore fairy gardens as a way to add a bit of whimsy to your home and landscape that both adults and children will love. We will learn how to use succulents, sedums and other natural elements in a large fairy garden. Then you will have an opportunity to design your own fairy garden in a tea cup or small container. Registration is limited to 35 participants for the "hands-on" portion to create your own fairy garden. You also must bring your own tea cup, coffee mug or other small container.

Brentwood Public Library

8109 Concord Road Brentwood, TN, 37027

All programs are *Thursday 10:00-12:00 pm*

Registration is required.

Call (615) 371-0090 or

register online [here](#)

Intern class starting February 5

Current Master Gardeners welcome to sit in

All current Master Gardeners are invited to attend the Intern class meetings. It is asked that current members sit near the back and leave the table space available for the Interns and the Mentors.

Date 2020	TOPIC AND INSTRUCTOR
2.5 (Wed)	Intro to the TEMG and WCMG Programs (REQUIRED) – Visit various WCMG projects and meet mentors at break – Log on to the Volunteer Hour Website
2.12 (Wed)	Intro to Horticulture and Basic Botany with Linda Horton
2.19 (Wed)	NO CLASS due to room conflict
2.26 (Wed)	Home Composting and Soil Health with Kevin Brown and Todd King ; tool care and maintenance with Cliff Morrison
3.3 (Tues)	Environmental Stewardship in the Landscape with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner , UT Consumer Horticulture Specialist
3.11 (Wed)	Tree and Small Fruits (and demo) with Dr. David Lockwood , UT Extension Fruit Specialist Optional tree pruning demonstration at Carter House with Dr. Lockwood time TBD
3.14 (Sat)	Optional tree pruning demonstration at Carter House with Ron Novak time TBD
3.18 (Wed)	Homeowner Turf and Best Management Practices with Mitchell Mote , Rutherford Co. Extension
3.25 (Wed)	Introduction to Entomology with Amy Dismukes
4.1 (Wed)	Carnton House (historical gardening) with Justin Stelter
4.8 (Wed)	Herbaceous Ornamentals with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner , UT Consumer Hort Specialist
4.15 (Wed)	Vegetable Gardening with David Cook , Davidson Co. Extension
4.15 (Wed)	Organic Options and Beneficial Insects in the Landscape & Garden with David Cook , Davidson Co. Extension
4.16 (Thur)	Optional Field Trip - GroWild 10:00
4.22 (Wed)	Woody Ornamentals with Carol Reese , Western Region Extension Specialist
4.29 (Wed)	Plant Disease with Dr. Alan Windham , Soil, Plant and Pest Center, UT Extension
5/3 (Sun)	Optional Demonstration – Straw Bale Gardening Franklin Farmers Market 2:00
5.6 (Wed)	Urban Trees & Proper Maintenance with Larry Tankersley , UT Forestry Specialist
5.13 (Weds)	Project & Volunteer Review (REQUIRED)
	<i>Upon completion of the 40-hour volunteer requirement and official acceptance into the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program, the WCMGA along with the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office would like to honor you and your fellow classmates, along with existing WCMGs, with a special evening TBD!</i>

CONTINUED GROWTH

WCMGA Upcoming Monthly Meetings



FEBRUARY 10

MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

**Speaker: David Cook,
Davidson County Extension Agent**

MARCH 9

COMPOSTING

**Speaker: Todd King,
Compost Facility Manager
City of Franklin**



APRIL 13

CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARMING/BEYOND THE HYPE “WHAT GOES INTO GROWING HEMP”

**Speaker: Hank Delvin Jr, Owner
Delvin Certified Organic Farm**



CONTINUED GROWTH

Going forward, we want EVERYONE to have a voice in what happens within our organization. Tell us about tours you would like to take or talks you would like to hear. What other groups would you like to see involved with our program? Your answers are very important in order for us to best decide how to move forward in the new year. Just send your response back to any of the Board members. We will be discussing them over the coming months and will try very hard to incorporate everyone's thoughts and ideas.

Please take a few minutes to make your thoughts known to the Board.

Here are some idea-starting questions, but feel free to make any other points you have.

MEMBER SURVEY

1. What kind of social activities would you like to see, going forward into 2020? (Because we all like a good party!) What kind of trips would you like to suggest? Trips that are over 100 miles will require a very costly bus so we will combine trips of this nature with our neighboring counties, but they are still do-able with a bit of planning.
2. What kind of projects would you like to see launched within our county if we had an unlimited number of volunteers?
3. What kind of events would you like to see planned with our neighboring counties? Or events we could invite our MG neighbors to participate in?
4. Is there an MG you feel is deserving of special recognition for contributions to the WCMGA? This would be a "spotlight" on the website and we'll try to change them out on a quarterly basis.
5. Are we under-utilizing our MG talents? Is there something we can do to inspire more participation and inclusion beyond our monthly meetings? Where are we "missing the boat"? What do you consider your special talents, or things you love to do?
6. Dr. Bumgarner would like us to create a visual display of a project we have undertaken in Williamson Co. that other counties can try. Can you propose a project you feel we can share?
7. Is there a speaker you would like us to invite that covers a subject you feel is especially important to the WCMGA?
8. We are going to have a new Ag. Extension agent in the new year. How can we better interact with this person? What do you see as their role in our association? It will take time for us to get to know her and her to know us, but how do you want to see them interacting with the WCMGA?

Do you follow Jefferson County (CO) Master Gardeners on Instagram?



jeffcogardener


Follow

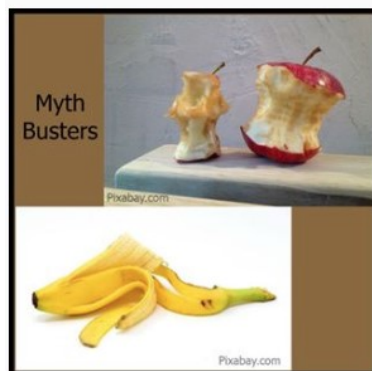
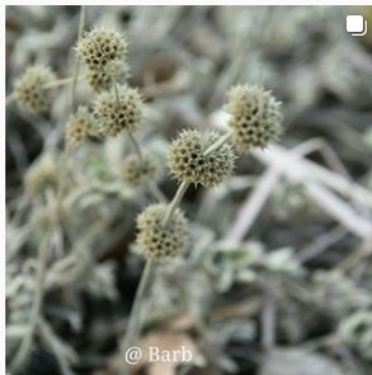
1,507 posts

2,846 followers

166 following

Jeffco Master Gardeners

We extend science based  gardening knowledge through CSU Extension for improving & educating communities. Located in Jefferson County, Colorado, USA. jeffcogardener.blogspot.com



THE BARK

FEBRUARY

Plant now: Sow seeds of radishes and cold-hardy lettuces. When daffodils appear, plant spinach, turnips, and peas. Cover the pea bed with clear plastic until sprouts begin to emerge; then, immediately switch to a floating row cover to protect the seedlings from weather and birds.

Indoors under lights: start seeds of herbs and annual flowers—such as ageratum, petunia, and snapdragons—that need 8 to 10 weeks to reach transplant size.

Buy now: Watch for garden sales. Order seeds from catalogs

MARCH

Plant now: In mid-March, sow hardy vegetables, such as carrots, beets, kohlrabi, radishes, leaf lettuces, and turnips.

Transplant onions, shallots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, white potatoes and asparagus crowns to the garden.

Set out herbs, such as rosemary, chives, and thyme—but not tender basil!

APRIL

Pass by broccoli and cabbage on sale at garden centers—hot weather will soon arrive, causing plants to go to seed instead of forming edible heads.

Thin crowded carrots, chard, and lettuce.

Remove floating row covers from peas early in the month. Provide trellis support.

Mulch around the base of cool-season crops to keep their roots cool and moist.

Buy now: Select new azalea and rhododendron bushes while they're in bloom to make sure that the color complements your landscape.



Newsletter/Website Articles Wanted

You can earn volunteer hours by writing about a garden you visited, a technique you tried which worked (or did not), or your enthusiasm for some special plant, or any interesting garden topic.

Keep contributing. Keep reading. Keep sharing. Please send your contributions to: wcmgatheperennial@gmail.com.

Check out our amazing
WCMGA [website!](#)

Also, look [here](#) for
important links to many
of your favorite
gardening resources!

THE DIRT



Looking for speakers!

All members are highly encouraged to pass along suggested topics AND the expert speaker who could present topics of interest. Email recommendations to Ryan Palmer at rpatenn@comcast.net

WCMGA Mission

The mission of the Williamson County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) is to provide research-based, horticultural education, while promoting environmental stewardship, via community volunteerism.

WCMGA operates under the umbrella of UTIA and the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office.

Contact Us

General Email: wcmgatheperennial@gmail.com

Address: [4215 Long Lane Suite 200, Franklin, TN 37064](#)