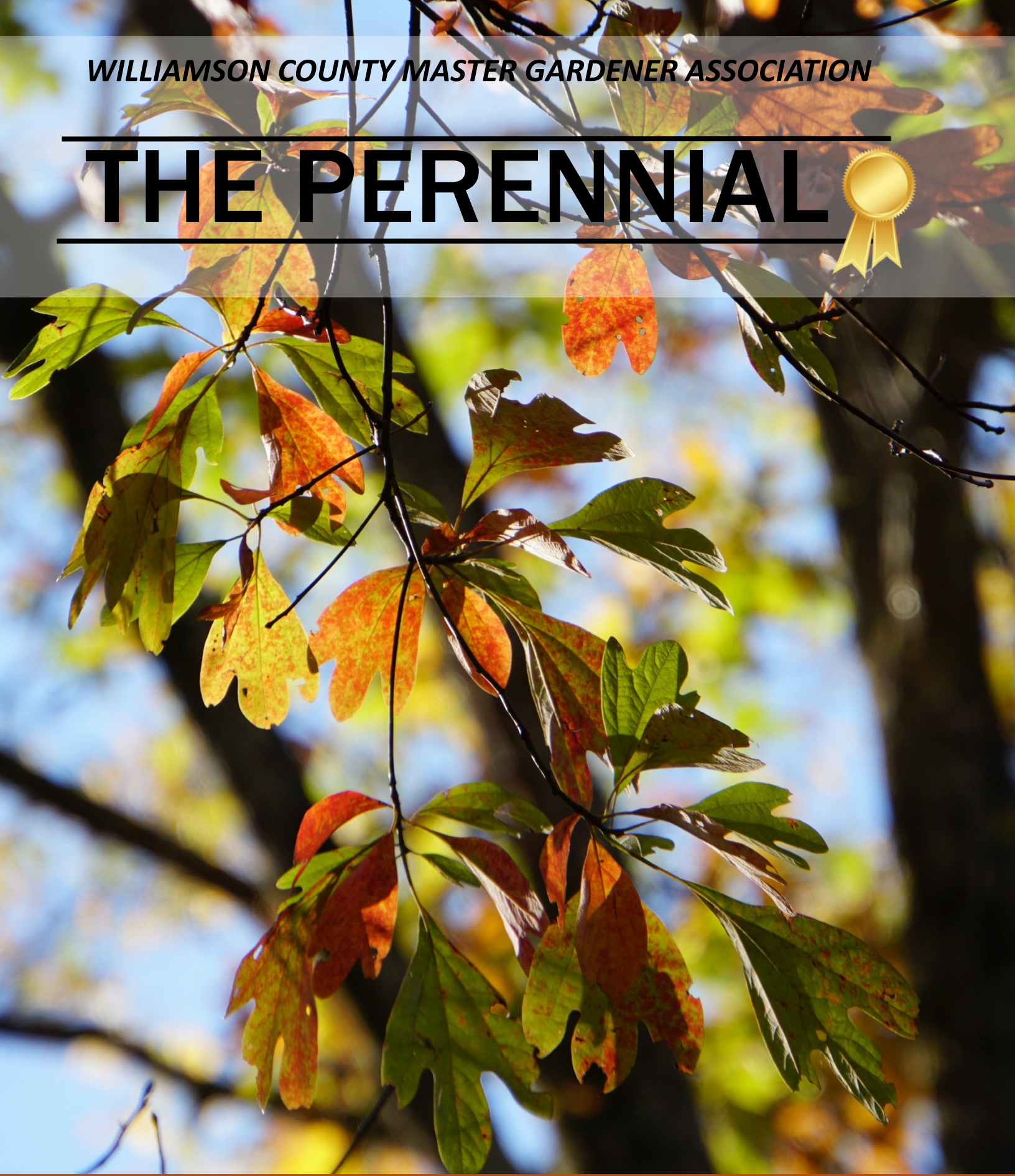


WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL



WILLIAMSON COUNTY
EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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OUR ROOTS

A Message from our President

Why

Why do we garden? Why do YOU garden? At the end of a season I ask myself that sometimes, when pests and disease seem overwhelming; when all I see are the failures. Why do I do this to myself? So easily we forget the wonder of seeds first breaking the soil. The relief when perennials we were sure died last year come back. When long-anticipated plans and plantings finally fill in the intended spaces. Gardening is a passion of patience. We work at it year after year, knowing that we can only do so much. Nature is going to nature. As a gardener, I try to remember; even as one thing hits its stride, another thing might be fading. Another might just be in its infancy. Getting too caught up in any one of those seasons, I would argue, is not a good thing. Enjoy that flourishing Baptisia in its splendor. Marvel at the coneflower just maturing enough to bloom for the first time. And remember when that fading Gaillardia was bright, and see it as an opportunity to plant something new. Change and variety are primary motivators for me.

I am a late-spring, early summer gardener. Of course I'm always gardening, but I think it's in service to that time of year when it's finally getting warmer in the evenings and the spring flowers are really singing. When tomatoes are just starting to take off. When herbaceous perennials are young and vibrant. There is nothing quite like that green. That's what I garden for; that's WHY I garden. I hope you can find and always remember why you garden. Hold on to it, because it's magic. Share it with others, because it's important. Practice it in community, because it's healing.

Find your why.

Matt Bergstrom
President, WCMGA



Winter is Coming...for Your Garden Tools: A No-Sweat Guide to Prepping Your Gear for Hibernation

By Taylor Reeder, UT/TSU Extension, Williamson County

Middle Tennessee may not be a winter wonderland, but just because there's no snow doesn't mean you get to slack off when it comes to winter landscaping chores. Sure, you won't be digging your car out of a snowbank, but your tools still deserve a little love. As the growing season winds down, and you're mowing, trimming, and shoveling for the last time this year, it's time to think about proper cleaning and storage. Trust me—your tools will thank you (in their own rusty, squeaky way).



A little preventive maintenance now can save you from expensive repairs and the heartbreak of a dull blade later on. After all, well-cared-for tools are not only more efficient, they're also less likely to fail on you when you need them most. Think of it as giving your garden gear a spa day—complete with scrubbing, sharpening, and oil treatments. Sounds fancy, right? Here are some tips to get you started.

Scrub-a-Dub-Dub: Cleaning Your Tools

Let's be honest, by the end of the season, your garden tools are looking a bit like they've survived a mud wrestling match. Time to roll up your sleeves and give them a proper scrub. Start by chiseling off that layer of caked-on dirt with a wire brush, scraper, or even a strong blast from the hose. Feeling extra fancy? Soak those tools in a soap-and-water bath to get them squeaky clean, or throw in a splash of bleach to kill any lingering plant funk. And while you're at it, grab a file or sharpener and give those blades a fresh edge; no one likes a hoe that just flops around in the dirt.

Don't skip the inspection stage, either—this is where you play “find the loose screw” and tighten up any nuts, bolts, or other bits that might fall off in the middle of your next garden adventure. For the finishing touch, spray down the metal parts with a little WD-40 to prevent rust. And if your tools have wooden handles, rub on some boiled linseed oil to keep the wood from drying out and turning into splinter factories.

Hose Hibernation: Prepping Your Garden Hoses

Ah, the humble garden hose—always there when you need it, always underfoot when you don't. As much as you might be tempted to toss it in the shed and call it a day, your hose could use a little TLC, too. First things first: drain out all that water. Frozen water + hose = the end of hose. Coil it up gently (think snake, not pretzel) and avoid hanging it on nails; use a hose reel or support if you can to keep it from kinking. Once it's all tucked away, store it in a dry spot, safe from the icy touch of winter.

Power Down: Winterizing the Big Stuff

Power equipment, like lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and trimmers, are the heavy lifters of your garden crew, and they deserve a winter rest, too. Start by evicting all the grease, dirt, and plant gunk they've accumulated. Check for any loose screws—because nothing says “spring surprise” like parts rattling around—and give those cutting edges a good sharpening.

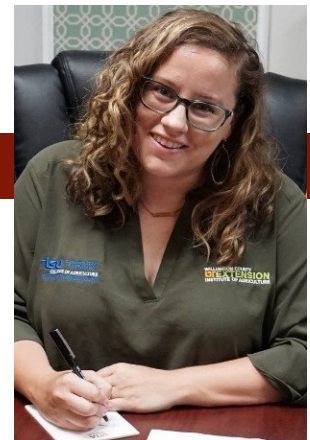
If your mower or trimmer has a four-cycle engine, now's the time to change the oil (yes, just like your car), drain the gas tank, and run the engine briefly to coat everything in a nice layer of oil. It's like giving it a warm blanket for winter. Got a two-cycle engine that runs on a gas-and-oil mix? Drain that, too, and run the engine with the choke open to clear the fuel lines.

Also, check the spark plug. If it's looking more “vintage” than “functional,” replace it. The same goes for any belts, filters, or other parts that look like they've seen better days. And here's a hot tip: don't store old gas! Gasoline ages like milk, not wine, and come spring, old fuel will just make your engine groan. Do everyone a favor and get rid of it before winter.

The Payoff: Enjoying Your Winter Break

Once the cold sets in, you might feel tempted to hibernate until the daffodils start popping up, but don't forget the importance of winter maintenance. A bit of prep work now means no surprises next season, so come spring, you'll be ready to dive right back into gardening. When your tools are in good shape, the garden season starts smoothly, and you can focus on what really matters—like remembering where you planted the tomatoes.

Taylor Reeder
UT/TSU Extension
Williamson County
Horticulture Agent
[Horticulture | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](http://Horticulture | Williamson County (tennessee.edu))



A Legacy of Service

By Jamie Desmond, WCMGA Board Member

When Phillip Francis retired from United Methodist Publishing House in 2015, after 42 years as a Senior Design Manager, he made a pledge to himself that even though he was retiring from work, he would not retire from life. He was determined he would find a way to stay busy serving his community and that he did. Phillip and his wife, Julia, enrolled in the Master Gardener classes and became members of WCMGA in 2015. Phillip and Julia immediately found a purpose and a home at the Franklin First United Methodist Church Giving Garden and have been active volunteers ever since.



Phillip on far left, Julia on far right at The Giving Garden



Photo by Holly Gardner

Think of a job or task at The Giving Garden and Phillip has probably had a hand in it. He has served on The Giving Garden Board of Directors since 2016, regularly submitting detailed spreadsheets detailing plans for vegetable plantings and production data. He has been the greenhouse extraordinaire so long that it's just assumed Phillip can be found in the greenhouse tending seeds for the spring planting of vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Phillip has been instrumental in instituting and maintaining cover crops to improve the soil health at the garden and if you have ever seen the soil at The Giving Garden, then you know the beneficial impact of this endeavor. In addition to these garden tasks, Phillip has also mentored countless Master Gardener interns, instilling in them the knowledge and love of gardening as well as the joy of serving our community through gardening. This growing season, Phillip added to his list of jobs the management of the two tomato hoop houses. This is considered a full-time

“job” all on its own, but somehow Phillip found a way to add this to his list of Giving Garden volunteer tasks.

Earlier this year, Phillip announced his plans to retire from his role at The Giving Garden, but in true Phillip fashion he already had a transition plan to help with the greenhouse plantings for 2025 and educate the next greenhouse manager. All individuals who volunteer at The Giving Garden are vital to the mission of providing fresh produce to our neighbors, but it goes without saying that Phillip and Julia have been extremely vital to fulfilling this mission.



Even though Phillip is turning the page on his time at The Giving Garden, he is not closing the book on being a Master Gardener. Thankfully, he plans to remain active with the WCMGA as he continues with the Speakers' Bureau and will be exploring opportunities with the Diagnostic Team. The Giving Garden and the WCMGA are thankful for Phillip and Julia and for their nine years of dedication and service to the mission of The Giving Garden.



To learn more about The Giving Garden, its mission, and how WCMGA supports that mission, follow the links below:

[WCMGA.net/the-giving-garden-at-franklin-first-umc/](https://www.wcmga.net/the-giving-garden-at-franklin-first-umc/)

[The Giving Garden - Franklin 1st United Methodist Church \(franklinfumc.org\)](https://www.franklinfumc.org)

[GARDEN SPOTS: Methodist church's Giving Garden continues to evolve in serving community | thenewstn.com](https://www.thenewstn.com)

Jamie Desmond will be taking over as project leader for The Giving Garden.

The man who has planted a garden feels that he has done something for the good of the world.... It is a pleasure to eat of the fruit of one's toil, if it be nothing more than a head of lettuce or an ear of corn. One cultivates a lawn even with great satisfaction; for there is nothing more beautiful than grass and turf in our latitude.... the world without turf is a dreary desert.... To dig in the mellow soil... is a great thing. One gets strength out of the ground.... There is life in the ground; it goes into the seeds; and it also, when it is stirred up, goes into the man who stirs it. The hot sun on his back as he bends to shovel and hoe, or contemplatively rakes the warm and fragrant loam, is better than much medicine.

~Charles Dudley Warner, "Preliminary," My Summer in a Garden, 1870 (quotegarden.com)

Project Spotlight: Young Scholars

By Ryan Palmer, WCMGA Member

Young Scholars is a joint project between the Williamson County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) and the Franklin Special School District's Young Scholars Institute (YSI) summer camp held each June. The Junior Scholars program includes students who have completed first, second, third, or fourth grades (ages 7-10). Senior Scholars are students who have completed the fifth grade or above (ages 11-14).

The Young Scholars program offers challenging, exploratory classes that are designed for independent and highly-motivated learners.

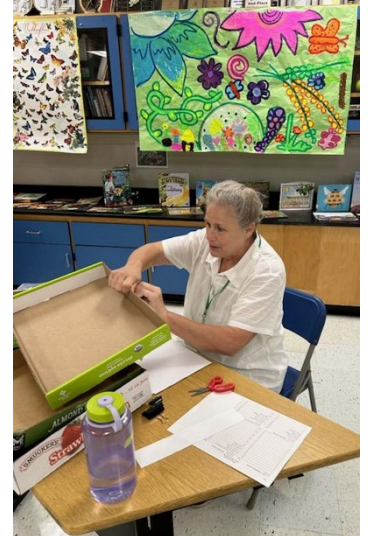


The more than 45 courses are academically and artistically challenging. YSI is designed for the mature, independent student who is ready to change classes. Scholars select four courses from the catalogue. Classes are approximately 90 minutes. There are two separate weeks of camp with new scholars beginning new classes Monday of each week.



Photos by Ryan Palmer

Now in its fortieth year, Young Scholars Institute added horticulture classes in 2019, when we designed courses around Monarch butterfly migration and honey bees. The horticulture classes in 2024 included planting seeds in each scholar's greenhouse as we looked at germination, exploring garden critters under the Master Gardener Diagnostics Team's microscope, and conducting a blind taste test where scholars had to identify the fruit and/or vegetable presented. We even had some scholars decide they actually like zucchini!



The Young Scholars project could not happen each year without support from that year's WCMGA intern class along with WCMGA members who volunteer their time to assist with the set up and the many classroom hands-on experiments.

We thank the volunteers and scholars who have worked hard to make this program a success!

For more information online, see these links:

wcmga.net/young-scholars/

[Camps & Summer Programs - Franklin Special School District \(fssd.org\)](https://fssd.org)

[2024 YSI Brochure \(finalsite.net\)](https://finalsite.net)

WCMGA members, for more information on the project and to volunteer for the June 2025 session, please contact Simone Salghetti or Ryan Palmer. You'll find their contact information in the membership section of the WCMGA website.



THE VINE: News

The Williamson County Fair was held August 2-10! We had a great WCMGA booth thanks to Wally Hoffman's pergola set-up crew and Holly Gardner and Cherri Liddell decorating. The theme of this year's fair was "Celebrating 20 years of Fun!" Photos of WCMGA members from the last 20 years were displayed along with several scrapbooks from years past.



Photos by Holly Gardner



During the fair, WCMGA volunteers were available to answer any questions from fair attendees. Pictured above (L-R) are Wayne Galentine and Carolyn Katz and Lisa Hagenbuch and Tracie Lovell. WCMGA also assisted with accepting fair entries for horticulture and floriculture competitions. Pictured at right (L-R) Martha Hansen, Ryan Palmer, Susan Ramsay, and



Photo provided by Ryan Palmer



Cindy Liggett. This project is over ten years old as the volunteers take in the competition vegetables on Thursday before the fair opens on Friday afternoon.

They were available for check-in, answering questions and helping things run smoothly, then worked to arrange the entries for judging. Several also volunteered after the fair was over for entry pickup and to clean up the area. We appreciate all who volunteered for this project!

Many of our WCMGA members entered items into fair competitions. Several ribbons were won! See more about our Master Gardener entries at the fair on page 19.

Our WCMGA picnic was held at the pavilion at Jim Warren Park in Franklin on September 14. It was a rainy day, but we stayed dry and had a good time in the screened-in pavilion and rejoiced in the fact the desperately-needed rain was falling on our dry gardens.

The Hospitality Committee was on site early to get everything ready and the beautiful flower arrangements for the tables were created by DeeAnna Carney.

We enjoyed barbecue from Whitt's and the food provided by members was fantastic, as expected.

We discussed things that had been successful in our gardens this year and



things we might want to change for next year.

Door prizes included gift cards provided by Wayne Galentine, home-grown flower arrangements, homemade sourdough bread, hand-painted notecards, and a miniature greenhouse kit from Kristy and Matt Bergstrom, and spider plants and Lenten rose plants propagated and grown by Rachel Fortuna.



Photos by Holly Gardner

From WCMGA member, Anita Tilley:

Tennessee Smart Yards (TNSY) are generating quite the buzz! From our very own Master Gardeners getting certified to expanding awareness in the community, certified Tennessee Smart Yards are growing. Helping to expand community awareness, a team of Master Gardener volunteers (including Cheryl Carlson, Carol Eck, Rachel Fortuna, Michelle Freeman, Katie Madison, Mary Pemberton, Marti Savouray, and Anita Tilley) have been hiking our trails to identify TNSY QR-code worthy signage sites. Go us! Take a peek at the article which appeared in the Williamson Herald this past September.



[Tennessee Smart Yard program a benefit for homeowners and ecosystem | Local News | williamsonherald.com](https://www.williamsonherald.com/news/local-news/tennessee-smart-yard-program-a-benefit-for-homeowners-and-ecosystem/)

For further information, go to <https://tnyards.utk.edu/>.

Our October meeting featured Travis Morgan, ISA Certified Arborist from Bartlett Tree Experts. He is a Virginia Tech graduate and has a Bachelor's of Science in Forestry. He has been in the tree care industry since he started with Bartlett Tree Experts in 2006. His strong background in insect and disease management and his love of plants makes him a perfect fit for the myriad of landscape issues in Middle Tennessee.

He discussed various native tree species and challenges we might encounter in growing them.

Bartlett Tree Experts has more information on their website at [Tree Service | Bartlett](https://www.bartlett.com)

Our festive fall table displays were created by Mary McBean and Ryan Palmer.

We voted in two new WCMGA Board Members! Donna Cate will be our new Secretary and Robin Thomas will be our new Director of Membership. Both will begin their two-year terms in January.

Donna Cate - Secretary:

Donna graduated with the WCMGA Class of 2022. As a child, Donna saw both grandmothers with lovely gardens including lots of fruits, daffodils, peonies, irises all around. Her mother, in her city home, also planted what she loved from both of her grandmothers. Plants were always talked about as “that came from so-and-so.”

When Donna finally had a little place of earth to tend to, she too, was a recipient of “this plant from so-and-so” and “that plant from them too.” Her little earth through the seasons reminded her of the flower-loving people that she loved.

She can hardly walk through her garden without having sweet memories and moments of the wonderful women that raised her. And now she has plants from her neighbor, Francie Owens (MG Class of 2024) and Linda Horton (dearly missed MG) and daylilies from Wally Hoffman (MG also) and Lenten roses from DeeAnna Carney (MG Class of 2022). So many more people are represented in her garden!

She is multiplying her peonies and irises and other plants, propagating hydrangeas, and sharing tomato harvests with her adult children and with her grandchildren on their little pieces of earth in hopes that someday they will see the love in their garden also.

She has worked at the Junior Gardener Camp the past couple of years and in the Giving Garden Hoop House when she was an intern. She is excited to



Donna Cate and Robin Thomas
Photo by Mary Holt

continue to learn and for the people that she'll swap plants with and looks forward to smiling with joy when she sees them in her garden.

Robin Thomas - Director of Membership:

Robin graduated with the WCMGA Class of 2023. After living in Arizona for 24 years, she was excited to learn about gardening and horticulture here in Middle Tennessee. She shared that the classes were engaging, educational, and fun and it was easy to make friends who had like-minded interests in gardening. Almost all of her volunteer hours were, and continue to be, spent at The Giving Garden. From repotting tomato plants to digging up potatoes to helping out in the barn preparing for the distribution of produce harvested from the garden and rescued from the farmers market, it has been a joyful and meaningful experience for

her volunteering at The Giving Garden. She is honored to be nominated to serve as Membership Director and looks forward to continued learning and making new friends here with the WCMGA.



We want to give a big “shout out” to the Nominating Committee for all of their hard work finding good fits for our leadership team! Current members are Mary Holt, Patti Dial, and Patsy McFadden.

And a special thanks the outgoing members of the Board: Secretary Lorena Machado and Director of Membership Jamie Desmond. We appreciate your service to the WCMGA!

Did you know...?

The Extension Master Gardener (EMG) program was started in 1972 in Washington state. Dr. David Gibby trained volunteers with a passion for gardening to assist the Extension office with consumer horticulture education in the community. This unique volunteer program has become internationally recognized and often duplicated as a model for other volunteer programs.



Today, Extension Master Gardener programs exist in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, several Canadian provinces, and South Korea.

For more information, check out their website:

[Extension Master Gardener](#)

For those members who enjoyed our recent state conference, you might be interested in the 2025 international conference!

[2025 International Master Gardener Conference – Extension Master Gardener](#)



Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference

By Holly Gardner, WCMGA Board Member and Editor

The 2024 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference was held October 9-11. It was hosted by Williamson County and Davidson County Master Gardeners. We had a wonderful crowd from across the state.

Welcome and Search for Excellence awards were at Ellington Ag Center on Wednesday night. Awards were given for teaching site (Rutherford County for Demonstration Rain Garden and Crimson Clover for Pollinator Demonstration Garden), workshop/



Photos by Holly Gardner

presentation (Knox County for SmartYards and Friends Festival), innovation for new or underserved audiences (Shelby County for horticulture therapy for senior adults), written or recorded education (Knox County for Organic Master Gardener and Shelby County for Through our Garden Gates: digital/print collateral), and youth program (Sumner County for Shalom Zone Youth Gardening Program).

There were also awards for outstanding Extension Master Gardeners: Anderson County - Walter Dycus, Wilson County - Linda Robertson, Hamilton County - Carlton Matthews.

Outstanding partners included Lee Rumble and Grow Oak Ridge.

Names were drawn from entries from bingo cards completed earlier in the evening and plants were given away (because we ALL need more plants, of course!!)



Tours on Thursday morning included Ellington Ag Center, Cheekwood, Giving Garden, and Arrington Vineyards and Delvin Farms. Attendees were able to choose one tour to attend.

I joined the one going to Arrington Vineyards and Delvin Farms. We learned a lot about both and



were able to see lettuce being planted in the field. That is me in the group photo above in the middle of the front row with the ballcap on. It was a beautiful day, but the hat came in handy in the bright sun.

Thursday afternoon sessions at Williamson County Ag Expo included local food outreach, leadership, edible landscaping, urban local food production, working with homeowners associations, turfgrass, pollinators, and native plants in Tennessee.

Thursday night we enjoyed a delicious buffet at The Barn at Sycamore Farms in Franklin. It was a beautiful space and our speakers discussed “Local Food - from the Farm to the Community.”





Friday we were back at Williamson County Ag Expo and hands-on sessions included tree pruning, flower pressing, fermentation, indoor hydroponics, mushrooms, diagnostics, canning, propagation, and microgreens. I attended the flower pressing for my first session and we made beautiful creations by gluing pressed flowers onto paper. I bounced around during the second session taking photos and was able to see pieces of very interesting presentations. The fermentation session attendees made their very own sauerkraut to take home! Our Williamson County Extension Horticulture Agent, Taylor Reeder, did an awesome job with the propagation session and of course attendees got to take home some cuttings and seeds... for more plants!



Friday afternoon, nursery tours were offered and we had a choice of Riverbend in Franklin, GroWild in Fairview, and Bates in Nashville. I went to Riverbend and it looked like several Master Gardeners were able to add to their plant collections (including me).

If you were not able to attend, you missed a wonderful time learning new gardening things and getting to know our neighboring associations. I highly recommend the experience!

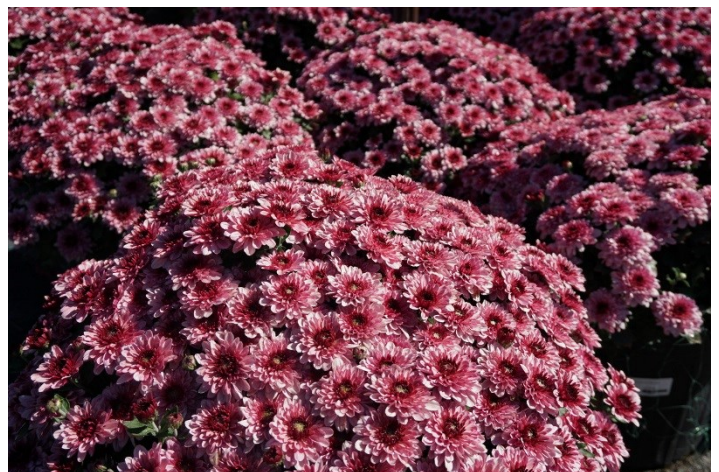
A special thanks to everyone involved in putting the conference together. The Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Master Gardener associations in Davidson and Williamson counties have been meeting and planning for months. Natalie Bumgarner and all of the various extension agents (including our very own Taylor Reeder) from around the state worked together to make the endeavor a success. And, we appreciate the hospitality of all of the owners and employees of our tour locations.

It was wonderful to see everyone and meet new friends. We hope to be able to continue to get together to share our knowledge and successes with each other. This is such an exceptional organization and I am proud to be a part of it.

Next year, we will have a regional conference and the next state conference will be in 2026 and will be hosted in West Tennessee.

For more detailed information about the 2024 conference and the sessions, you can check out the document with session descriptions here:

[2024-TEMG-state-conference-Session-descriptions-8.16.24.pdf \(tennessee.edu\)](#)



WCMGA Winners at the Williamson County Fair

Several WCMGA members entered items into various categories at the Williamson County Fair this year, many winning ribbons!

CONVENTIONAL HORTICULTURE

Jeana Butler



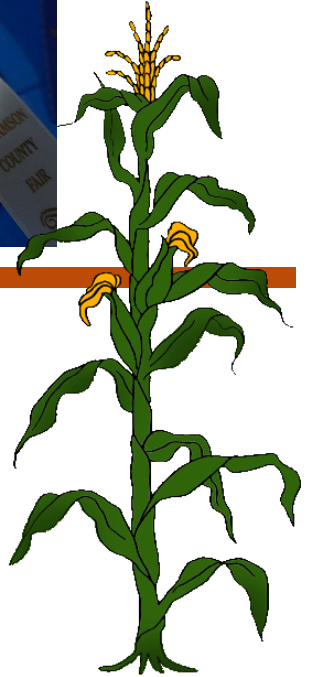
Photos by Jeana Butler

Susan Ramsay



Photos by Susan Ramsay

Holly Gardner



Carolyn Kirchner



FLORICULTURE Kristy Bergstrom



This beautiful Mikayla Miranda Dahlia entered by Kristy Bergstrom won first place in the category and Best of Show!

Carolyn Kirchner



Opuntia Cactus



Pachypodium
(Madagascar Palm)



Purple Queen



Mini Rose



Hosta



Caladium



Celosia



Coneflower



Miscanthus-Zebra Grass



Coleus

Susan Ramsay



**Susan Ramsay
(continued)**



Rachel Fortuna



Holly Gardner



**FIELD CROP
Holly Gardner
Forage Hay - Mixed Grass
Legume Hay**



JUDGED ART SHOW

Kristy Bergstrom

Professional - Painting/Pencil/Charcoal



For a complete list of 2024 Williamson County Fair winners follow these links:

Agriculture: [Exhibit Winners Report](#)

Cultural Arts: [Exhibit Winners Report](#)

Be sure to be on the lookout next year for the request for entries into the 2025 Williamson County Fair. You too can showcase your talents growing vegetables and fruits, canning, painting, photography, etc. and show the community how capable our master gardeners are.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Rick Borchert



National Parks Series: Enjoying the Natural Wonders of Acadia National Park

By Lisa Hagenbuch, WCMGA Member

Editors Note: This is fourth in a series of articles by Lisa Hagenbuch, following and documenting her travels to some of our national parks.

As an avid hiker and naturalist, I was thrilled to finally make the trip to Maine's stunning Acadia National Park. I spent several days immersing myself in Acadia's vast trail system, observing the park's diverse ecosystems and its wide array of plant and animal life.



Mountain lilies (Photo by Lisa Hagenbuch)

One of my first stops was a peaceful hike along Acadia's historic carriage roads winding

through the mountains. There, I was surrounded by lush evergreen forests filled with balsam firs, white pines, and red spruces that formed a shady canopy overhead. In spring and summer, delicate wildflowers burst forth across the forest floor, including trillium, blue-eyed grass, and bunchberry. It was incredible to see such vibrant flora thriving in the rocky terrain and harsh climate.

Venturing up to Acadia's high, granite peaks, I discovered even heartier plants specially adapted to mountaintop conditions. Alpine flowers like mountain sandwort and creeping juniper clung tenaciously to the thin soils along the ridge lines and withstood the intense winds. Nearby, the slopes of Pitcher Mountain gave way to sweeping blueberry barrens where the shrubs burst with sweet fruit later in summer.

Animal life flourishes across Acadia as well. One highlight was catching sight of Atlantic puffins with their bright striped beaks, nesting on islands just offshore. These seabirds indicate a rich marine environment. Back on land, iconic Maine wildlife abounds, like white-tailed deer foraging along the shoreline and busy red squirrels preparing for winter. Moose even make an

appearance, wading tranquilly in the ponds. Near the rocks, Acadia's most amusing residents, sociable gray and harbor seals, seemed unfazed by scores of admiring tourists.

One of my most memorable experiences was exploring the tide pools that emerge during low tide along Acadia's rocky coast. Here an entire microcosm exists filled with sea stars, barnacles, snails, hermit crabs, anemones, and other intertidal creatures, each uniquely adapted to the extreme conditions. It was fascinating to witness such diversity in one small area.



Swamp rose (Photo by Lisa Hagenbuch)

Life abounds in the serene waters of Acadia's lakes, ponds, and streams. From waterfowl to fish, wildlife depends on aquatic vegetation. This freshwater community includes plants that float unattached to the bottom as well as rooted plants with leaves that may emerge from the water, float on the surface, or be completely submerged. Aquatic plants primarily grow in the littoral zone, a shallow area near a shore where sunlight penetrates.

After several days spent hiking Acadia's wooded carriage roads, granite peaks, and rugged shoreline, I left with a deep appreciation for this park's varied ecosystems and inhabitants. From its flower-strewn forests to the animals that call it home, Acadia protects a remarkable diversity of natural wonders. I look forward to returning soon to continue exploring Acadia's trails and uncover more of its captivating flora, fauna, and landscapes.

[Acadia National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/acadia)



For a complete list of our National Parks, historic sites, and monuments visit: [National Park System \(U.S. National Park Service\)](https://www.nps.gov/)

The National Park Service manages 431 individual units covering more than 85 million acres in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.

THE BARK: Monthly To-do List

NOVEMBER

- Plant tulip and daffodil bulbs for a stunning display next spring
- Prepare a bed for planting autumn garlic
- Cut back the yellowing foliage of herbaceous perennials, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigor
- Keep harvesting your various cool-season crops
- Plant out bedding displays of pansies, violas, and primulas
- Remove remains of dead annual plants and add to compost if there is no sign of disease
- If you have access to fresh manure, now is the time to spread it across the surface of your vegetable beds to rot down over winter
- Tidy up your strawberry plants - cut off any dead leaves and remove runners



- Continue to check for pests in houseplants brought inside for protection from cold weather
- Create compost bins for collecting fallen leaves and dead plant material
- If the soil is dry, give your garden one last good watering before the ground freezes
- Once plants are dormant, it is a good time to relocate any plant that you want to move
- Winterize spigots and take in hoses
- Prune and destroy all dead or diseased fruit tree limbs when dormant
- Carrots can be stored in ground for a little while, but be sure to pull them before the ground freezes
- Remove fallen leaves from around the base of any rose bushes which suffered from blackspot or rust this summer to reduce the chance of reinfection next year

DECEMBER

- Cover unused beds with mulch or a thick layer of leaves
- Feed fall crops (do this every six weeks during the growing season)
- Cut evergreen boughs or holly with berries for wreaths
- Organize seeds and determine what you will need for spring
- Pot up amaryllis, paperwhites, or pre-chilled hyacinths so you'll have winter blooms inside for the holidays and beyond
- Order seed catalogs
- It is not too late to get your spring bulbs planted, so get them in the ground
- Plant trees or shrubs



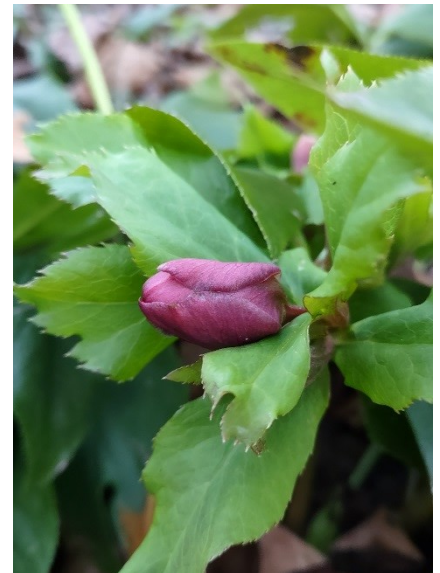


- Mulch strawberries when temperatures expected to drop below 20F, but only if they are dormant
- Don't overlook other great plant choices for holiday color. Poinsettias aren't your only option. Consider kalanchoe, cyclamen, bromeliads, 'Diamond Frost' euphorbia, Christmas cactus, orchids, or even blooming mini-cactus
- Map out crop rotations for next year in light of any diseases or pests encountered
- Start to think about the garden plan for next year

- Add fallen leaves to your compost pile or use for mulch
- Continue to add kitchen scraps, dead plant material that is not diseased, or any grass clippings to compost pile and turn regularly with a fork
- Remove any diseased leaves from under rose bushes and dispose of them
- Clean any pots or seed trays
- Water fall crops during dry spells
- Clean gardening tools (see Taylor Reeder's article on page 4 of this issue of *The Perennial*)

JANUARY

- Inventory leftover seeds
- Test germination of leftover seed from last year
- Purchase media from a reputable source and buy new pots or sanitize old ones to reduce disease risk
- Prepare seed order for remaining cool-season and warm-season seeds for transplants
- Keep an eye out for spider mites, mealybugs, and scale insects on houseplants
- Start planning gardens and other yard projects
- Keep your bird feeders full
- Test and amend the soil by continuing to add compost to the garden
- Clean and oil garden tools if you have not done so
- Compost or chip your Christmas tree
- Test your garden soil for its pH levels. Contact your local Extension office for a soil kit. Then, apply lime, sulfur, and fertilizer according to the soil-test results
- Prune any damaged or dead branches from your trees and shrubs and then fertilize
- Start slower-growing, cool season vegetables such as cabbage, brussels sprouts, beets, and onions indoors so you will have seedlings to plant into the garden later



Another good resource is the [2024 Tennessee Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden Calendar](#)

Look for the 2025 Calendar coming soon!



Member Gardens



From Susan Hart:

In true volunteer spirit of Tennessee, a volunteer yellow pear tomato plant surprised this Master Gardener a full year after it was planted and 25 yards from its original plant site. The yellow pear tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), also known as the tear-drop tomato and the heirloom, small-fruited tomato made its way over and under, and in and out of an oak leaf hydrangea. While not as much fruit was produced, it was a joy to harvest as a reminder of the previous year's tasty treats.



We need photos!
If you would like to have your photos shared or your garden featured, please contact us at ThePerennial-WCMGA@gmail.com.



From the garden of Patience Kosowski

From Ann Harvey:
The Tulip Magnolia is looking good this year. A majority of the years an early frost ruins its spectacular rich pink blossoms.

THE DIRT

Upcoming WCMGA Events

November

November 11 - 6 p.m. - WCMGA meeting/potluck and MG intern graduation - Williamson Co. Ag Expo Park

December

No WCMGA meeting - Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

January

January 13 - 6 p.m. - WCMGA meeting - TBD - Williamson Co. Ag Expo Park

February

February 10 *** - 6 p.m. - WCMGA meeting - TBD - Williamson Co. Ag Expo Park

***Please note possible change in dates to accommodate scheduling conflicts in the meeting room .



Continued Growth

UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE HANDS-ON CLASSES

Learn a new skill, try a new method, or develop a new passion. The Williamson County Extension's hands-on classes provide opportunities to experience agriculture, horticulture, and much more.

Agriculture Mechanics Craft Products Horticulture Preservation Outdoors

[Hands-On Classes Williamson County](#)

Fall Preservation - November 12, 2024

Description – In this class, we will discuss the best ways to preserve your fall fruit and vegetable crops. We will show you how best to freeze, dehydrate, store, and preserve your harvest!

[Fall Preservation | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

Garden Season Extension - November 19, 2024

Description - Come learn new ways to extend your garden growing season.

[Garden Season Extension | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

Pruning Blueberries and Blackberries - February 6, 2025

Description - Learn how to prune blueberries and blackberries in order to have a more productive season. Get hands-on experience using different pruning and training techniques that will help your orchard thrive.

[Pruning Blueberries and Blackberries | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

Ornamental Spring Pruning - February 11, 2025

Description – In this class, you will learn how to prune your dormant trees and shrubs.

[Ornamental Spring Pruning | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

Seed Starting - February 25, 2025

Description - The focus of this class will be starting your own vegetables and annuals from seed. You will leave with a few supplies and seeds to start your own garden journey!

[Seed Starting | Williamson County \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

Preregistration and payment is required for all classes. Classes may be purchased as a series or individually. For questions, please contact Taylor Reeder at treeder2@utk.edu.

Also, check out the UT Extension publication, Welcome Home: Gardening in Tennessee!

[PB1919 Welcome Home: Gardening in Tennessee](#)





Newsletter and Website Articles Wanted

Special thanks to Matt Bergstrom, Taylor Reeder, Lisa Hagenbuch, Rachel Fortuna, Ann Harvey, Susan Hart, Jamie Desmond, Ryan Palmer, Patience Kosowski, Anita Tilley, Jeana Butler, Susan Ramsay, Carolyn Kirchner, Kristy Bergstrom, and Holly Gardner for their contributions to this issue.

Great job, everyone!!
We cannot do this without you!
If you have photos or stories to share,
you can get volunteer hours!

ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com



Keep contributing!
Keep reading!
Keep sharing!

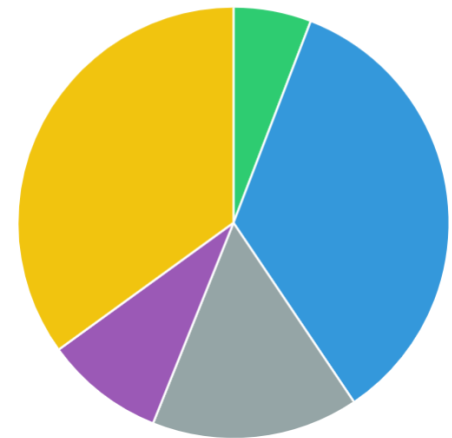
WCMGA by the Numbers

Volunteer hours reported for
2024 so far: **10,648**

(as of October 31, 2024)

Based on values determined by
Independent Sector Website:
Hours Value: **\$235,952.37**

Project Hours by Category



WCMGA Mission

The mission of the Williamson County Master Gardener 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

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