

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL



WILLIAMSON COUNTY
EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Volume 10 | November 2019



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OUR ROOTS

A Message from our President

I am writing this on our fall trip, which this year is to Ireland, unfortunate timing which caused me to miss the last meeting. There are many beautiful gardens here, of course, as you would expect in a place that gets over 200 days of rain a year. At this season, they are not so impressive, but still inspirational. One particular perennial border stands out; it would be perfect to transplant entirely to the new house Barbara and I are closing on next week. It would be nice to have it coming up when we marry next spring.

A typical (minus the wedding!) autumn gardening daydream of mine. About this time every year, I am wishing and thinking about what I need to do for the garden and yard next year, and hoping I will do at least some of it. And I usually do...some of it. Never all of it, never even most of it. Then in the spring, I am thrilled to see the crocus coming up, and the daffodils, the sedum and the milkweed, the Joe Pye weed, the phlox and especially the ones whose names I can't remember. And I see the empty places and undone chores.... And I think, why oh why didn't I get out there and do all those things I dreamed up?!

I have some pretty good excuses this year. Maybe you do, too. But I hope to include in my new life getting LOTS more of those plantings, fixings, trimmings and mulching done, as part of the moving out and moving in. I hope you can check off your whole list, too!

WCMGA President

Richard Hoos

Thanks to everyone who brought plants, seeds, bulbs, ferns, friends and food to the October meeting.



Aunt Lou's Underground Railroad

BY Jack Melnick

At some point in the mid-19th century, this Heirloom was carried through the Underground Railroad by an unnamed black man as he crossed to freedom in Ripley, Ohio, from Kentucky. Ripley is home to Rankin House, a well-known stop on the Underground Railroad and now a [museum](#). He grew these tomatoes there, and later shared seeds with a woman named Lou, who later shared seeds with her great nephew Francis Parker. Sixty years later Francis, who lives in Sardinia, Ohio, shared seeds with Wilfred Ellis, owner of Ellis' Feed Mill. Francis died in 2010 but approved the addition of Underground Railroad to the name. Wilfred shared them with Susan Barber and Gary Millwood in Kentucky. Seeds were first offered in the Seed Savers 2010 Yearbook by Maria Stenger of Kentucky, who received the seeds from Gary Millwood. Indeterminate, regular leafed plants with sparse foliage produce 4-12 oz., dark pink, tangy and juicy tomatoes.

In 2014, a Master Gardener named Annie Owen, while working at the



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Carnton Plantation, grafted this tomato scion with an Estamino root stock. That plant created a much larger fruit, 2-3 times in size. All heirloom crops that are grown at Carnton Plantation are kept in the tradition of what was there during the Civil War timeframe. This tomato was unique in its taste and size, and I kept some seeds, growing it for my garden in 2015. That year, the plant produced a similar fruit to the 2014 grafted version. I have been growing it since then as one of my favorites. The grafted version, along with the root plant, has been grown in the Period Slave Garden every year since 2014. The grafted version is triple in size as the root version.

CONTINUED GROWTH

WCMGA Upcoming Monthly Meetings

NOVEMBER 11

**WCMGA 2019 Award Dinner and
Board Election**

RSVP required. More info [here](#)

DECEMBER

NO MEETING

ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS

JANUARY 13

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Brittani Perez, Water Quality Specialist, City of Franklin

- What is stormwater?
- Information about our watershed and local water resources
- Understanding stormwater pollution and its impacts
- Discuss Franklin's Stormwater Management Program
- What are stream buffers and green infrastructure, and why are they important to stormwater management?
- How can we prevent stormwater pollution?

More stormwater information [here](#)

CONTINUED GROWTH

WCMGA BOARD ELECTIONS

The membership voting for new board nominees will be at the next MG member meeting in November. There are 3 nominees to fill open board positions next year.

On behalf of all the Association's members, we are so blessed and fortunate that Linda has agreed to be the nominee for President. Mary Holt is the nominee for Vice President, and Holly Gardner is the nominee for Director of Public Relations. Assuming a successful vote, Linda, Mary, Holly, and the remaining board members will be a great team to lead our Association next year. The other 5 directors will continue the second year of their term in 2020. Please review the biographies below and come to the November meeting prepared to vote.

Linda Horton

Nominee for President

Linda spent 26 years doing cancer research at Vanderbilt, specializing in melanoma and breast cancer. As a cancer survivor, she serves on the Vanderbilt Research Advocacy Council, is the sitting advocate on numerous Susan G. Komen and Department of Defense research grants, and works as a Consumer Reviewer for the DOD Breast Cancer Review Board twice a year, in Washington D.C. But her "get away from it all" hobby has always been gardening. She and her father shared a deep love of irises, but she expanded into other perennials after purchasing a new home. The first item on her post-retirement bucket list was to become a Master Gardener. She wanted to expand her gardening into fruit trees and vegetables, as well as learn more about pollinator gardening. After finishing the course in 2016, she assisted with 2017 and 2018 intern classes. In addition to working at the various gardens, she enjoyed giving talks at the library and garden clubs as a member of the Speaker's Bureau. In 2017, she helped the intern class create an herb garden at the Franklin Farmers' Market and has since expanded it into an "edible" garden, known as the Edible Uprising. In 2019, she volunteered to serve as the Master Gardener trainee course facilitator. Linda will again facilitate the WCMGA trainee course in 2020.

Holly Gardner

Nominee for Director of Public Relations

Holly grew up on a farm near Shelbyville, TN. Her family always had vegetable gardens and flower gardens, and they passed down their love of gardening to her. She attended Middle TN State University and earned a Business Administration degree, majoring in Marketing, with minors in Business Administration and Psychology. She and husband, Mark, live on a farm near Columbia. She currently works for a small R&D laboratory in Franklin that concentrates on diagnostic cancer testing involving chemotherapy and immunotherapy. She completed her certification in the WCMGA in 2005. She previously served as the Association's photographer, and compiled and maintained the Association's scrapbooks for several years. She was involved in numerous Bloom 'n' Garden Shows, leading the setup of the Master Gardener booth for several years. She also served on the Garden Tour Committee for two years, and has been involved in many Association Plant Sales. She currently serves on the Website Committee, the Garden Festival Committee, and the Lawn & Garden Show Committee. Hobbies include gardening, photography, travel, horses, cars, motorcycles, and backyard projects.

Mary Holt

Nominee for Vice President

Mary grew up on a small farm in Alabama, drove a tractor, and thought everyone had strawberries in their back yard. She also enjoyed playing hide and seek in the corn fields. From Alabama she moved to California, where she and her husband grew tropical flowers and fruits that were very different from Alabama. She worked in Information Technology for 44 years. After retiring from her role as IT Director for the state of Alabama, she continued as a computer systems consultant for the Federal Government. She completed her Alabama MG certification in 2010. She had a tremendous love of gardening, as evident from the over 150 azaleas and many African violets in her back yard. She and her husband moved to Franklin to be near their adult children and grandchildren. She enrolled in the WCMGA in 2014. She grows many flowering shrubs and perennials, and grows vegetables in containers. She participates in several WCMGA activities, including the Junior Gardener Camp, which her grandchildren love. Since moving to Franklin, she discovered that two of her great grandfathers fought in the Battle of Franklin and Battle of Nashville. In addition to gardening, she and her husband thoroughly enjoy traveling. They return to Alabama often, where they have a lake home, and cheer for the Auburn Tigers.



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Instagram?

middletnlawns

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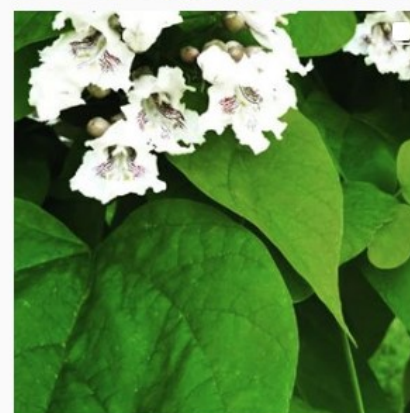
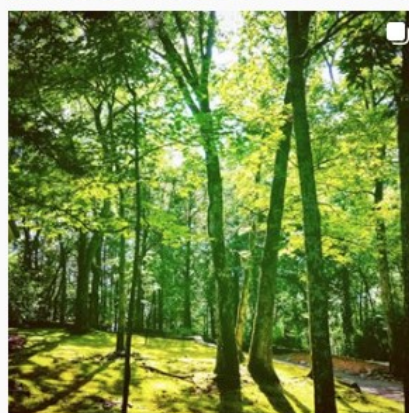
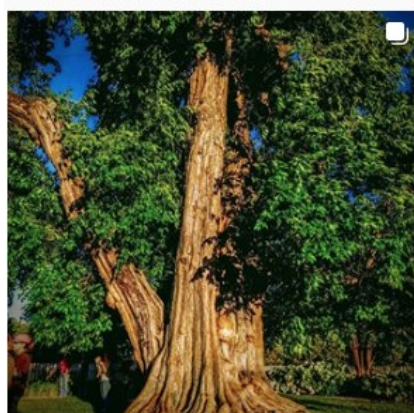
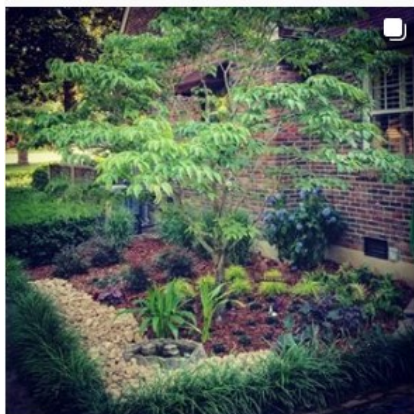
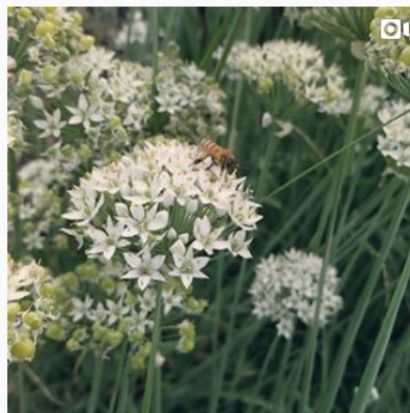
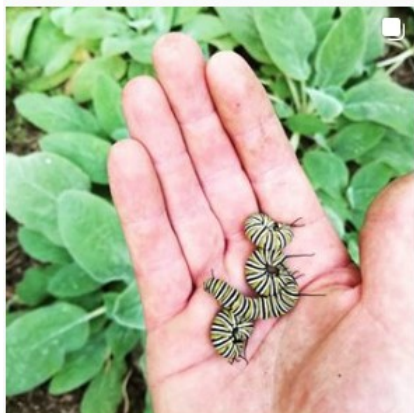
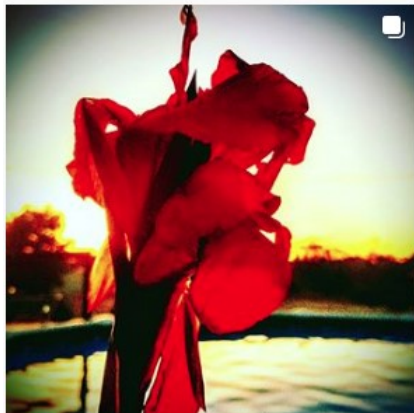
823 followers

1,781 following

Andy

Professional Gardener in Nashville & Franklin, TN.

Subcontractor for local designers. Garden Install & Maint. pics of my work, and tours
US Navy Vetu



THE BARK

November

- Plant tulip and daffodil bulbs for a stunning display next spring
- Cut back the yellowing foliage of herbaceous perennials, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigor
- Plant out spring bedding displays of pansies, violas and primulas
- Prepare a bed for planting autumn garlic
- 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 clear fallen leaves off the lawn to keep it healthy
- 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 lift and relocate any plant that you want to move

- Winterize spigots and take in hoses

December

- Cover unused beds with mulch or a thick layer of leaves
- Clean gardening tools
- Clean any pots or seed trays
- Feed fall crops (do this every 6 weeks during the growing season)
- Water fall crops during dry spells
- Order seed catalogs
- Organize seeds and determine what you will need for spring
- 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.
- Pot up amaryllis, paperwhites or pre-chilled hyacinths so you'll have winter blooms inside for the holidays and beyond.

January

- Inventory left-over seeds
- 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
- Compost or chip your Christmas tree
- Get a soil test to prepare for amendments in spring



Newsletter 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.

Special thanks to Rick Borchert for contributing photographs for this issue!

Need to record your amazing volunteer hours?

Go to the website wcmga.net.

Scroll down to the button "Report your hours here". Click on it, log in, select "CEU" or "Project" at the top.

Enter your continuing education hours (at least 8) and/or volunteer hours (at least 25).

THE DIRT



This unripe cotton boll was photographed at the Period Slave Garden at Carnton.

Looking for speakers!

We are beginning to identify our 2020 monthly Association meeting speakers. All members are highly encouraged to pass along suggested topics AND the expert speaker who could present the topic. 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

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