

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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# THE PERENNIAL

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY  
**U-EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Volume 9 | August 2019



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Special thanks to Mary Pemberton and  
Rick Borchert for contributing photographs  
for this issue!

# OUR ROOTS

## A Message from our President

Summertime...and if the livin's not exactly easy in the heat and humidity, at least the gardens love it. I congratulate myself each year as the perennials bloom in sequence...even if there are a few gaps I still need to fill in. Or more than a few. But "wait until next year" may be more my gardening theme than it is even of my favorite long-suffering college football team...

Now, while I am mostly impressed with the success of plants officially designated "Tennessee native," as I have learned at various WCMGA meetings, I must report another success. For five years I've kept a bougainvillea alive and sometimes blooming, following the philosophy that if I can't be on a real deck in the Caribbean, then I can bring a bit of the Caribbean to my deck here. Even though it spends nearly half the year in the garage, wistfully looking out the window. Last fall I left it out on the screened-in part of the deck a little later than usual, knowing that wasn't really much insulation, but thinking, weirdly, "it'll be alright." Misplaced faith. After a couple nights of temperatures in the teens, it definitely did NOT look alright, and it had a definite air of "I tried, but I give up." The green but wilted leaves persisted, and didn't change even though I brought it into the sunroom for the winter (Was I thinking, "If it got too cold in the fall, I can make up for it by keeping it warmer than usual in the winter"? It looked particularly bad in the same room with the Christmas tree.). I watered it every month. I didn't cut back the lifeless stems. I waited in vain and with ever-diminishing hope for the little sprouts that usually start impatiently in February. I didn't touch the little weeds that sprang up around the corpse. Well into April I moved it back outside, where the leaves finally responded by turning definitively brown and falling off. I put it back in its usual corner, feeling like the kind of bereaved spouse who keeps the ashes on the mantel, or worse, but secretly still harboring just a spark of hope that Mother Nature would forgive me once again. Mostly I couldn't bear to look at it too closely. But I did notice the rampant weeds and clover around it the last week of June, and with a heavy heart decided to clean it out. When what to my wondering eyes did appear, but two new vigorous bougainvillea shoots, springing from the stem at nearly ground level, blithely ignoring the weeds, reaching for the sun! Faith rewarded!

And lessons, I hope, learned. Again. Several sermons in this little story. I certainly like to share the produce of my garden. But even more I like to share the joy. That's why I'm a Master Gardener, and why I volunteer. May you feel as blessed by your gardening as I do. And may we share those blessings with our neighbors and community through our volunteering. See you soon.

WCMGA President

*Richard Hoos*

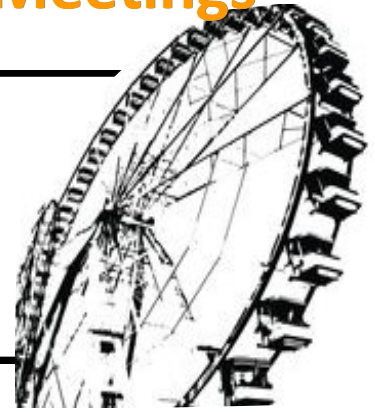
# CONTINUED GROWTH

## WCMGA Upcoming Monthly Meetings

**AUGUST**

**No Meeting**

**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!**



**SEPTEMBER 9**

**Polly Rooker**

**BACKYARD POLLINATORS.**

Polly will bring her 30+ years of forestry and agriculture experience to help gardeners establish a safe and sustainable habit for our pollinator friends.

**OCTOBER 14**

**OPEN HOUSE AND PLANT SWAP**

We encourage every WCMG to print out the attached flier and deliver it to at LEAST ONE individual/couple, inviting them to our first-ever community open house event.

ALSO— at this time, IDENTIFY the 3-4 plants you will bring to the plant swap. As Master Gardeners, let's put our best foot forward with the plants we bring so the public will be able to see the results of our hard work!!!

**PRINT OUT THE FLIER AND INVITE A FRIEND!**



**Williamson County Master Gardeners  
and their guests are invited to our  
WCMGA Open House and Plant Swap**



**October 14, 2019 - 6:00 pm - Williamson County AG Expo Park**

We're taking our plant swap to the next level by opening up our group to the community.

Each member is encouraged to bring up to 3 plants to be "swapped" AND a friend who might be interested in the WCMGA program.

For each plant a member brings, they will receive a ticket to bring home a plant. The tickets can be shared with the guest.



**Plus, WCMGA member,  
Lisa Ward-Smith will share  
information on "Tower Growing"**

Join the gardening revolution! Lisa Ward-Smith will show us how we can Grow Anywhere with Tower Gardens.

Meet the gardening system that lets you grow flavorful, nutrient dense vegetables, herbs, and even flowers and fruits all year round.

Simple to set up and maintain, Tower Gardens turns your kitchen, sun room, patio, porch, and even your office or classroom into a year-round farmers market.

It's all based on Aeroponics and is simply sustainable. Using only 2% of the water and 10% of the space required for traditional gardening, aeroponics is the future of gardening and farming.

**Come join the fun!**



- Refreshments will be provided!
- Spend time with your gardening friends and meet new ones!
- Share your knowledge and your plants!

# CONTINUED GROWTH

## WCMGA SPEAKERS BUREAU

### *2019 Williamson County Public Library*

### *Garden Talk Series*

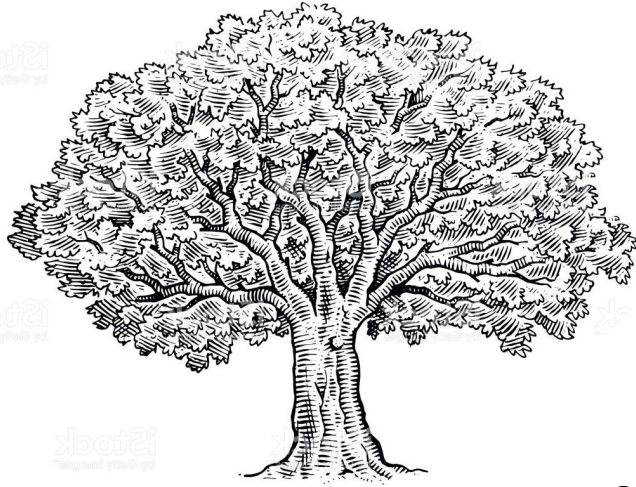
All programs are Monday 1:00-3:00 pm

Williamson County Public Library

1314 Columbia Ave. Franklin, TN 37064

Registration is required.

Call (615) 595-1243 or register online [here](#)



### **Landscape Design Basics**

**Monday, Aug. 12, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Do you need to landscape a new home or just re-do a garden bed? We will help you get organized and on the right track to create a landscape that is functional, beautiful and meets your needs. Whether you plan to do it yourself or hire a landscaper, this talk will help you be better prepared.

### **Water in the Garden:**

### **Rain Barrels, Rain Gardens and Simple Water Features**

**Monday, Sep. 23, 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Investigate ways to make use of water in your garden for irrigation, to control run-off, and to bring beauty, nature and sound to your home.





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Shelly on  
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190 posts

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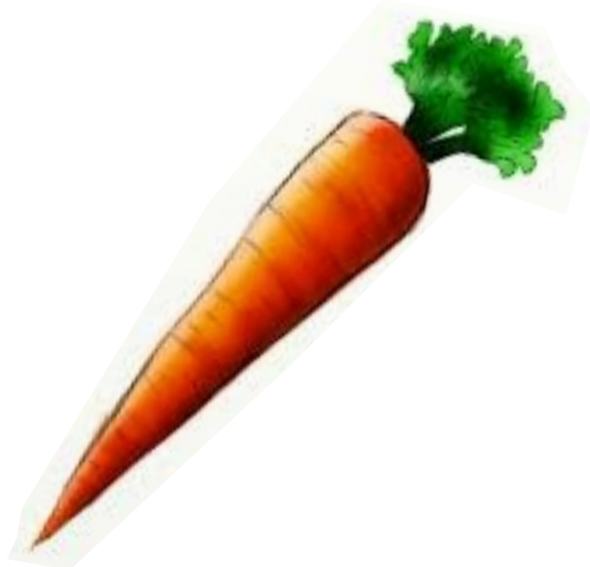
tap.bio/@agardeninprogress



# THE BARK

## August

- Harvest vegetables continuously to stretch their season
- Sprinkle compost starter to speed up composting for fall soil building
- Prune summer-blooming shrubs (hydrangea, clethra, caryopteris) after flowers finish
- Plant garlic now for spring harvests
- Dig gently to harvest potatoes a few plants at a time
- Look forward to something different next spring: try alliums in your bulb garden
- Sow seeds of cool-weather herbs (chives, parsley, garlic chives, cilantro and dill)
- Plan perennial beds for fall and winter color with ornamental grasses, fall-blooming bulbs and hardy heaths and heathers
- Enjoy fall fragrance by planting autumn clematis (*Clematis paniculata*), flowering tobacco and annual stock
- Keep cool during summer's dog days with a shade garden embroidered with hostas and hardy ferns
- Color up your bulb garden with fall bloomers (*lycoris*, fall crocus, *colchicum*)



## September

- Set out transplants of cool-weather vegetables
- Prune cane fruits such as raspberries and blackberries
- Plant winter pansies and fall annuals (calendula, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale)
- Plant peonies
- Plant fall-blooming bulbs to brighten up fading window boxes, planters and in drifts among ornamental grasses
- Continue to harvest herbs and flowers for drying
- Divide peonies, bearded iris and other spring- and summer-blooming perennials
- Plant bare root trees and shrubs
- Order sweet pea seedlings for fall planting
- Plant herbs and groundcovers as the weather cools

## October

- Plant or repair lawns
- Plant ornamental grasses
- Cover perennial, vegetable, bulb, and strawberry beds for winter
- Plant winter- and spring-blooming bulbs
- Pre-chill tulips and hyacinths for indoor forcing
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container fruit trees
- Cut back on feeding houseplants (do not feed dormant houseplants)
- Rake lawn to remove debris
- Sow seeds for frost-tolerant perennials
- Plant container roses
- Plant balled-and-burlapped or container trees, shrubs, and vines
- Prune fall-flowering shrubs just after bloom
- Protect tender plants from frost

# 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](mailto:wcmgatheperennial@gmail.com).

Need to record your amazing volunteer hours?  
Click [HERE](#)



# THE DIRT



## 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](mailto: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: [wcmgstheperennial@gmail.com](mailto:wcmgstheperennial@gmail.com)

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