

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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# THE PERENNIAL

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

Volume 26 | November 2023



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## **Table of Contents**

- 3 Our Roots: A Message from Matt Bergstrom, WCMGA President
- 4 Cultivating Sustainable Landscapes  
By Taylor Reeder
- 7 The Giving Garden Is Not All About  
Vegetables  
By Carol Eck
- 9 The Vine: News
- 20 The Bark: Monthly To-Do List
- 23 Member Gardens
- 24 Did You Know...?
- 25 Continued Growth
- 26 The Dirt: Reminders and Contact  
Information

# OUR ROOTS

## A Message from our President

### Another season done

I can't believe another summer is behind us. I hope everyone had as successful a growing season as possible, celebrating the wins and learning from the failures. I certainly did. I think I found some keeper varieties, and some I definitely won't be growing again. We added a number of new perennial plants and wildflowers, moved some things around, and generally continued our constant editing of the landscape. It never ends!

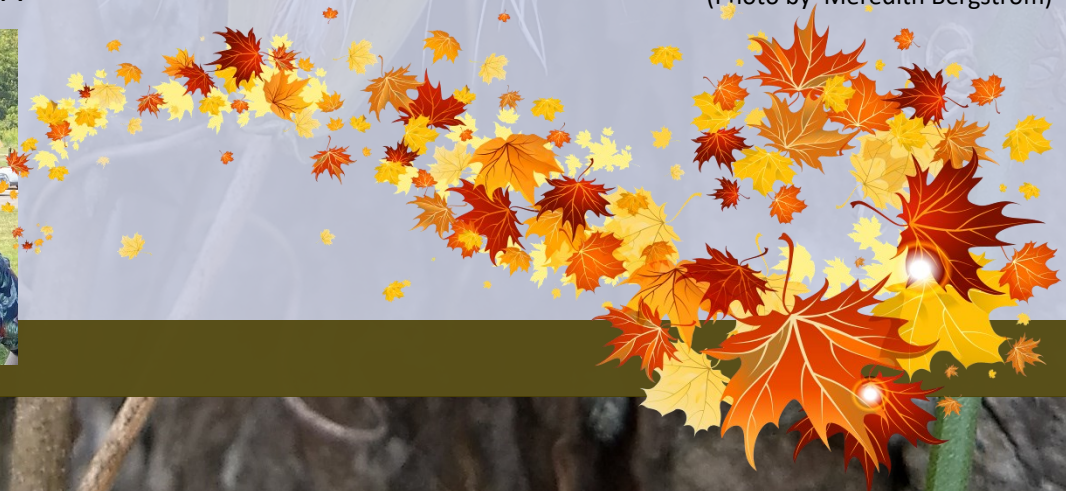
But it does pause, if you let it. I know many master gardeners who grow cool season vegetables in the fall and early spring, who are already planning for next year. What a wonderful joy and privilege this hobby (or lifestyle) of ours is. I also recommend enjoying each season, and taking this time to rest a bit. Once my garage is back in order, and the plants are mostly asleep, I sure am happy not to be watering all the time or constantly being on pest patrol. I have other hobbies, primarily indoor ones, that I try to reinvigorate myself with, like playing guitar or reading some long-awaited books. I hope you all take some time to do that as well.

And as we enter the holiday season, I pray you get to spend time with family and friends. That truly is the most important thing, and I never take it for granted.

Matt Bergstrom  
President, WCMGA



(Photo by Meredith Bergstrom)



# Cultivating Sustainable Landscapes

By Taylor Reeder, UT/TSU Extension, Williamson County

Tennessee is a beautiful state with a variety of stunning landscapes that we call home. The unique natural elements in our region can be incorporated into landscape decisions to offer a sustainable balance that meets your needs and also makes sense for our climate, soil, and other environmental conditions. When designing a landscape and, more importantly, choosing plants, there are a few things I consider as I make my selections. When we make smart choices, we create “smart” landscapes!

## Remove and Avoid Invasive Plants:

Invasive plants are non-native plants that can quickly take over your garden and spread rapidly throughout the environment, endangering native habitats. A lot of invasive, exotic plants are easier to find in winter, when other desirable plants in your landscape are dormant and/or bare-branched. Winter is the perfect time to begin the process of removing invasive plants before we all get too busy with mowing, clipping, and weeding during the peak of the growing season. Below, you will find a list of some of the most common invasive plants that we encounter in Tennessee.

## Common Invasives in TN:

- Burning Bush (Winged Euonymus)
- English Ivy

- Chinese Privet
- Kudzu (The vine that ate the South)
- Tree of Heaven (Host plant of the Spotted Lanternfly)



Burning bush

## Add Local Flavor:

Native plants have many inherent qualities and adaptive traits that make them aesthetically pleasing, practical, and ecologically valuable for landscaping. Using native plants contributes to the health and often the restoration of an ecosystem. When landscaping with natives, match the right plants with the right site conditions in your region. Landscaping with natives in an urban setting helps restore regional character and places fewer demands on resources. Below, I will list some of my favorite native plants for middle Tennessee landscapes. This was a very hard list to narrow down!

## My Top Natives (so hard to make):

- Christmas Fern (evergreen - shade)
- Black-eyed Susan (perennial – sun)
- Virginia Sweetspire (shrub – flowering – fall color)
- Fothergilla (shrub – flowering – fall color)
- Oakleaf Hydrangea (shrub – exfoliating bark)
- Serviceberry (small tree - flowering)
- Muhly grass (grass – sun – stunning plumes)



Virginia Sweetspire



Muhly grass

## Always Plant Perennials:

The benefit of perennials is that once planted, they return for many years to come. Gardeners count on these trusty plants to

welcome spring each year with colorful blooms and to provide color and form to summer and fall landscapes. Perennials are especially beneficial to pollinators. They provide a consistent source of nectar and pollen throughout our growing seasons and will be a habitat that our pollinators know to come back to year after year. These flowers have been applied to a wide variety of garden designs, including rock gardens, bog gardens, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and more. I will list a few outstanding perennials that I see utilized across our beautiful state!

## Perennials with Panache:

- Coneflower (there is even one specifically native to Tennessee!)
- Columbine
- Sedum
- Goldenrod ('Fireworks' is one of my favorite cultivars)
- Baptisia
- Milkweed (gotta provide for those monarchs!)



Tennessee Coneflower

## Consider Site Conditions and Past Failures:

We have all had plant failures. Maybe it was a “right plant, right place” issue. It could have been improper planting. Maybe you are a low-maintenance person and you picked a high-maintenance plant. Whatever the issue, our failures help us grow as gardeners. Trial and error can be our greatest teacher! Learn from your mistakes and expand your knowledge. Below, I will list some errors I made (or have seen) and how we turned them into successes!

## Mitigating Past Mistakes:

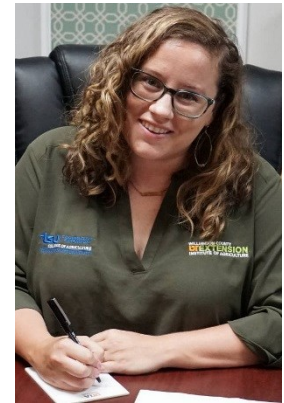
- Fail: Boxwood (too many problems to name)  
Success: Dwarf Yaupon Holly & Viburnum

- Fail: Knock-Out Rose (rose rosette)  
Success: Abelia & Hydrangea
- Fail: Bradford Pear (invasive)  
Success: Fringetree & Eastern Redbud
- Fail: Pin Oak (bacterial leaf scorch)  
Success: Nuttall Oak
- Fail: Leyland Cypress (you know why...)  
Success: Hollies, Arborvitae, & Magnolia

Taylor Reeder

UT/TSU Extension  
Williamson County  
Horticulture Agent

[Horticulture | Williamson County](#)  
[tennessee.edu](http://tennessee.edu)



## Want more information?

[Invasive Shrubs, Vines and Trees | UT Arboretum \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

[Invasive Plants – Tennessee Invasive Plant Council \(tnipc.org\)](#)

[Invasive Plants – Harpeth Conservancy](#)

[Invasive Plants \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Native Trees for Tennessee](#)

[Native Plants | Tennessee Smart Yards \(utk.edu\)](#)

[Tennessee Native Plant Society - Recognize, Protect, Plant, Join \(tnps.org\)](#)

[Landscaping With Native Plants - Middle Tennessee \(tn.gov\)](#)

[Plants for Tennessee Landscapes- Perennials | UT Hort](#)

[Center for Native Grasslands Management \(tennessee.edu\)](#)

[What Should I Plant? - Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones \(tnvalleywildones.org\)](#)

[Plants for Tennessee Landscapes - W874-B.pdf \(tennessee.edu\)](#)



# The Giving Garden Is Not All About Vegetables

By Carol Eck, WCMGA Member

The Giving Garden is located at the Franklin First United Methodist Church. The gardens comprise five acres where produce, fruit, flowers, and herbs are raised and provided to those members of the community in need.

Early one morning in late June, having arrived at the Giving Garden to volunteer, I walked to the barn and found Sylvia setting up over 100 small plastic cups and many buckets of flowers were on the tables. After I inquired about this, she explained that a group of ladies would be making flower arrangements to go out on the trays of meals being delivered that day as part of the Meals on Wheels program. She eagerly asked me if I wanted to help. One learns quickly at the Giving Garden that the leaders never turn away a willing volunteer... they welcome you with open arms and big smiles.

As the next hour and a half progressed, there were about twelve ladies who all stood around the tables and shared stories, laughed, and arranged over 120 beautiful flower arrangements. What fun we had, and it was good to know this small thoughtful gesture would make someone's day as they received a hot meal for lunch with a gorgeous fresh flower bouquet.

Having volunteered at the garden since 2020, I have not spent much time in the flower or herb gardens as I tend to work in the vegetable fields. A fellow Master Gardener, Jamie Desmond, has assumed the leader role over the flower and herb garden and there is work to be done all season long. From planting to dead heading and weeding, if flowers are your passion, this is the place for you.



You may be wondering what happens to all the flowers raised there. Here are only a few things for which the church uses the flowers:

- Once per month in June, July, August, and September - 120-135 arrangements for Meals on Wheels
- New church member dinners - 10-15 arrangements for each dinner
- Other church events as they arise

Volunteers are encouraged to take small arrangements to friends who may be home bound or just need a pick-me-up.

There is always a need for small jars with the labels removed for flower arrangements. Relish jars or similar are a great size. If you have any you want to save and donate, they can always use more. You may deliver them to the barn at the Giving Garden at any time.

As Sarah and Marie say at the end of their frequent newsletters, "See you in the garden".



Sarah McGinley coordinates all volunteers and creates the weekly newsletter for volunteers. Marie Hurley is a day leader for the garden and sometimes helps Sarah with the newsletters. Sylvia coordinates flower cuttings for the Meals on Wheels program.

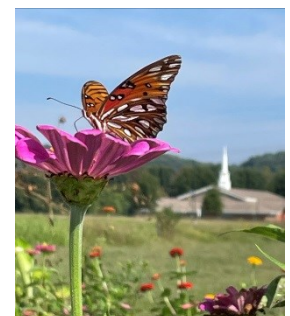
If you are a Williamson County Master Gardener and would like to be added to the newsletter email distribution list, please contact Jamie Desmond.

Members may also come to the garden any morning Monday through Friday (except when storming), check in with the day leader, and be directed to where they can volunteer.

For more information:

[WCMGA Project: Giving Garden at Franklin First United Methodist Church](#)

[The Giving Garden - Franklin First United Methodist Church \(franklinfumc.org\)](http://franklinfumc.org)



# THE VINE: News

Williamson County Fair was held August 4-12, 2023. Many thanks to our members who volunteered at our booth to keep it staffed and to answer questions from fair attendees. See more about our Master Gardener entries at the fair on page 13. (Photo by Wayne Galentine).



Our annual WCMGA picnic was held on Saturday, September 9, at 11 a.m. at the Fieldstone Park pavilions in Franklin. The association provided barbecue, buns, and water and members brought various delicious sides and desserts. The pavilion had been double booked, but we were able to make it work. Members brought chairs, tables, and popup tents and there was space for everyone.



“Despite the various hick-ups in this year’s Fall Picnic it was still a great success and a wonderful opportunity to socialize with gardening friends. The weather couldn’t have been more perfect and the food was delicious.

Rachel, thank you to you and your hospitality team for all the work making this annual event a success! I had 48 people sign-in/attend the picnic.”

- Jamie Desmond

Thank you so much to MG intern, Angela Park for capturing the fun in photos!



*Gardening friends are the BEST!*





(Photos by Angela Park)



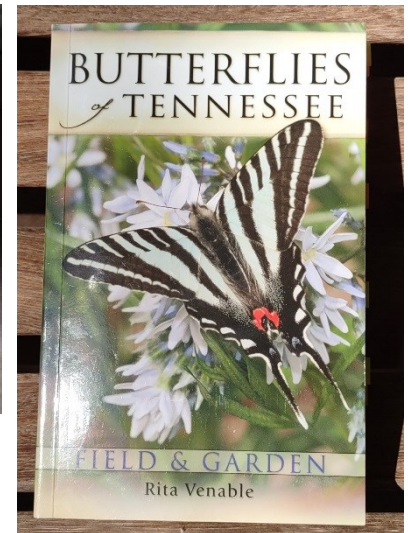
Our October speaker was Rita Venable. She is a writer, photographer, consultant, and speaker whose much-loved subjects are nature and gardening, especially pertaining to pollinators. She is author of *Butterflies of Tennessee* (Maywood Publishing). Rita has spoken at nature sanctuaries, regional garden expos, landscaping seminars, state parks, scientific symposiums, and nature and garden clubs. She has been a guest on “Tennessee Wild Side” and “Volunteer Gardener” [WDCN, Nashville Public Television] and “Talk of the Town [WTVF, Nashville].



Currently, Rita is a host for “Volunteer Gardener.” She is a consultant with the University of Memphis for a Middle Tennessee pollinator strip for TDOT and a pollinator consultant at the Giving Garden.

She presented, “A Home for Butterflies” and suggested things we, as gardeners, can do in the garden to attract and keep a healthy butterfly population.

She also had her book available for purchase at the meeting and was available for signatures. Her book is a wonderful reference tool complete with full-color photos of butterflies at all stages of life and overflowing with information on habitat, ranges, tips on identifica-



tion, and much more. We appreciate her taking the time to talk with us.

You may read more about Rita on her website at [RitaVenable.com](http://RitaVenable.com). Books can be purchased online at [maywoodpublishing.myshopify.com](http://maywoodpublishing.myshopify.com).



The beautiful flowers for our snacks table were provided by DeeAnna Carney. The snacks were above and beyond! Thank you to those who provided such delicious selections for us this month!



The election was held for our Board Members for 2024.

**President:** Matt Bergstrom incumbent President

**Vice President:** Rachel Fortuna incumbent Vice President

**Director of Public Relations:** Holly Gardner incumbent Director of

Public Relations

New Board Members are as follows:

**Treasurer:** Cindy Ellison

Cindy became a Master Gardener in 2022 and has fond memories of helping her intern team keep their project garden at the Factory alive when temperatures rose to over 100 degrees for days on end! She has also so enjoyed volunteering with the Junior Gardeners Camp and the Plant Sale these past two years. She was born in Chicago and lived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but considers herself a Southerner having been in Arkansas and Tennessee for the past 28 years. Her gardening goals are threefold: butterflies, bees, and lots and lots of flowers!

**Director of Projects and Volunteers:** Wayne Galentine

Wayne became a Master Gardener in 2018 after an invite from Dave and Linda Horton and Carolyn Katz. He has volunteered at Carter House, Carnton Plantation, Giving Garden, plant trials for UT, set-up booth for fair, plant sale, herb garden, and has served four years as a mentor to incoming master gardener interns. He will strive to help this group of friends grow larger and better serve our communities of plant lovers.

**Director of Education:** Tim Blake

Tim became a Master Gardener in 2020 and has served as an intern mentor for the last three years. He and his wife Maggie, also a Master Gardener, moved to Tennessee from Miami where he practiced law 52 years.

Tim's plant experience included maintaining his collection of 200 orchids, growing specimen palms, bamboo, and bananas. He was our speaker in July, speaking on orchids.

We also elected three non-Board positions working under new Directors.

**Bookkeeper:** Jenn McCoy

Non-Board Position working under Treasurer

Jenn became a Master Gardener with the Class of 2022 and she has enjoyed helping with the Junior Gardener Camp and the plant sale. The Master Gardener program has been a great help for her learning how to properly plant and remove trees, planning their landscaping, and getting their vegetable garden started.

**Project Assistant for Volunteers:** Melody Hall

Non-Board Position working under the Director of Projects and Volunteers

Melody became a Master Gardener in 2022. In addition to her intern team's project garden, she volunteered at Giving Garden, Carnton Plantation, Carter House, McLemore House, and at the Junior Gardener Camp while an intern. She has continued to volunteer with these projects as well as with the Speakers Bureau and the plant sale (and doing an awesome job with Martha Hansen organizing the shed)! Gardening interests include food production, using native plants, pollinators, and soil health.

**Activities Coordinator:** Carol Murphy

Non-Board position working under Director Of Education

Carol joined the Master Gardener program in 2020. She worked on Carnton Plantation, the Carter House, and the Giving Garden. Her small group had a medicinal garden at the Carter House. She has worked one year at the Williamson County fair booth and two years at the plant sale. Growing up, she liked gardening with her grandmothers and now has a vegetable garden and two recently-planted apple trees - the beginning of her orchard.

We appreciate all our members who agreed to serve on our Board of Directors for this two-year term and to help govern and shape our association. These are very important roles and we are thankful to have a fantastic group of individuals to fill them.

This year, the Nominating Committee included Ryan Palmer, Mary Holt, and Carol Bond. We understand the time and effort it took to choose association members to present as possible candidates. Thank you for all of the hard work and dedication in finding incredible additions to our team!

We would also like to say a special thanks to our outgoing Board Members. We appreciate your service to the organization. And, we say an extra special thank you to Sonya Craig who is retiring this year after many years of service as Treasurer and Bookkeeper. She kept us all in line and we appreciate her and will miss her being a part of our Board!

# MG Winners at the Williamson County Fair

We had many WCMGA members enter items into various competitions at the Williamson County Fair this year! Entries were made into the Agriculture department in the Horticulture and Floriculture divisions and in the Culinary Arts department in the Canning division. We also had a couple of members with entries in the Cultural Arts department in the Photography division.

**Congratulations to our winners!!**

Thank you for representing our association so well! Below are a few of the entries submitted by our awesome members:



I entered vegetables and flowers in the competitions at the fair this year. I learned a lot and had a great time. I got some ribbons for banana peppers, elderberries, pole beans, and an unusual shaped vegetable, (which was a Chinese Python Snake Bean.) I entered flowers for the first time this year,

and got ribbons for several, including a sunflower that got "best of show." -Susan Ramsey





Jack Melnick - Division 300 class 21 – Misc vegetables. It is canned Giardiniera, a medley of garden vegetables - First Place



Jack Melnick - Division 150B class 166 - other. Brad's Atomic Grape tomatoes - First Place



Jack Melnick - Division 150B class 168 - Roma tomatoes - Second Place



Jack Melnick - Division 300 class 16 - Salsa - Third Place



Jack Melnick - Division 150B class 165 - Heirloom - Aunt Gladys tomato - Second Place



Jack Melnick - Division 150B class 137 - Fish Peppers "Hot" - Second Place





Valerie Silver - Red Slicing Tomatoes - First Place



Valerie Silver - Tomatoes other - First Place



Valerie Silver - Yellow onion - Second Place



Valerie Silver - Salsa - First Place

Below are a few photos that Valerie provided of the other various vegetable entries. There was some good competition!





Rachel Fortuna - Yellow Onion - First Place



Rachel Fortuna - Garlic - Second Place



Rachel Fortuna - Red Onion - Second Place



Rachel Fortuna - Leek - Third Place



The time of the falling leaves has come again. Once more in our morning walk we tread upon carpets of gold and crimson, of brown and bronze, woven by the winds or the rains out of these delicate textures while we slept.

How beautifully the leaves grow old! How full of light and color are their last days! There are exceptions, of course. The leaves of most of the fruit-trees fade and wither and fall ingloriously. They bequeath their heritage of color to their fruit. Upon it they lavish the hues which other trees lavish upon their leaves... But in October what a feast to the eye our woods and groves present! The whole body of the air seems enriched by their calm, slow radiance. They are giving back the light they have been absorbing from the sun all summer.



~John Burroughs, "The Falling Leaves," *Under the Maples*



## Café au Lait for the Win!

For years, I have grown the dahlia that flower farms and florists alike say is an absolute must for the garden. Its name is Café au Lait and its tubers remain in the ground in my front flower beds year round. This year, I decided to enter the flower in the Williamson County Fair and to my surprise, it won a first-place blue ribbon! If you haven't tried growing dahlias, I recommend trying them because they are incredibly prolific and require minimal care. Floret Flower Farm offers great instructional videos on growing dahlias and even recommends the best stateside nurseries to buy them from. Learn more here: <https://www.floretflowers.com/workshops/online-workshop/>.

In addition to my first blue ribbon this year, the 2023 season was the first time I've also grown enough flowers to make bouquets for my neighbors and friends. Apart from tomatoes, flowers were the most prolific crop in the Bergy Garden. I've been able to give away more than 40 bouquets, which brought me more joy than I can fully express. It was especially fun to share my now award-winning dahlia, Café au Lait! Check out some of the pictures, including one of my favorite neighbor bouquet reactions this season. - Kristy Bergstrom



Photography



Rick Borchert - Open class 06  
Architecture - 1st place



Rick Borchert - Open Class 03  
Still Life - 2nd place



Rick Borchert - Open Class 01  
People - 3rd place



Jack Melnick - Amateur Class 12 - Still Life  
- Bluebird eggs - Honorable Mention



# THE BARK: Monthly To-do List

## 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
- Keep harvesting your various cool-season crops
- Plant out spring bedding displays of pansies, violas and primulas
- Remove remains of dead annual plants and add to compost if there is no sign of disease
- 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 check for pests in houseplants brought inside because of 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 lift and 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 6 weeks during the growing season)
- Water fall crops during dry spells
- 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
- Mulch strawberries when temperatures expected to drop below 20 F — but only if they are dormant
- Map out crop rotations for next year in light of any diseases or pests encountered



- Order seed catalogs
- Start to think about the garden plan for next year
- Clean gardening tools
- Plant trees or shrubs
- Add fallen leaves to your compost pile or use for mulch
- Cut evergreen boughs or holly with berries for wreaths
- Clean any pots or seed trays
- Remove any diseased leaves from under rose bushes and dispose of them
- It is not too late to get your Spring bulbs planted, so get them in the ground
- 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

# 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 Cooperative 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 [2023 Tennessee Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden Calendar - UT Hort](#)



## Member Gardens



Michelle Keith provided several awesome photos from throughout the season in her pollinator garden.

### A Surreal Day in the Bergy Garden by Kristy Bergstrom

For eight years much like our fellow Master Gardeners, Matt and I have poured our time, money and love into our garden. Since 2015, we've gone from one small 4ft by 7 ft raised vegetable bed to nine large raised beds, multiple cottage-style flower beds, a stone path and trellises galore to create what our neighbors and friends describe as a "secret garden" in the heart of suburban Williamson County. Since completing the Williamson County Master Gardener Program together in 2019, we've focused on thoughtfully planting natives and eliminating chemical and pesticide use in our garden. For years, I've filmed garden tour videos on my phone to share privately with our family and friends on social media. I wanted to share our knowledge and encourage others to stop using chemicals in their own gardens, and much to my surprise these silly little videos led to a segment on Nashville Public Television's Volunteer Gardener.



Since completing the Williamson County Master Gardener Program together in 2019, we've focused on thoughtfully planting natives and eliminating chemical and pesticide use in our garden. For years, I've filmed garden tour videos on my phone to share privately with our family and friends on social media. I wanted to share our knowledge and encourage others to stop using chemicals in their own gardens, and much to my surprise these silly little videos led to a segment on Nashville Public Television's Volunteer Gardener.

A few months ago, Host Rita Venable reached out, saying she'd heard that we don't use chemicals and focus on natives – two things she is incredibly passionate about and wants to

feature on the show. At the time, Rita and I were not “Facebook friends,” but I went to high school with her wonderful daughter and she was the one who told her mom about our garden. To be honest, Matt and I thought it was so funny that they’d reach out because we’ve never done anything in our garden with the thought that it would be on TV! We’re just addicted to buying way too many plants! But alas, when Rita came to do the pre-tour of our garden this summer, she was blown away by how much building and design work Matt had done over the years.

Then on Tuesday, August 22, Rita, a producer and videographer came to film the segment. The garden was absolutely abuzz with activity that day. Though the segment will be short, it took the four of us about an hour to film the interview portion, and then Armando the videographer took B-roll of the garden for another hour. It was honestly so surreal that anyone would want to film our little garden. We’ve been huge fans of the show for years so we’re excited to see how the segment will turn out. It will air next year and we’ll be sure to share it with you when it does!



The native Maximillian sunflower in Matt and Kristy Bergstrom’s backyard garden is just starting to bloom and it’s quite a site to behold.

It’s between 12-13 feet tall and it’s covered in buds. It grows all summer long and then blooms in the fall.

(Photo and information from Kristy Bergstrom).

**We need photos!**

**If you would like to have your photos shared or your garden featured, please contact us!**

**[ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com)**

## Continued Growth



### UT INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE HANDS-ON CLASSES

Learn a new skill, try a new method, develop a new passion, or connect in a new way.

The Williamson County Extension's hands-on classes provide opportunities to experience agriculture, horticulture, and much more. There's nothing like doing it yourself!

Agriculture  
Horticulture  
Craft Products

Mechanics  
Preservation

[Hands-On Classes Williamson County](#)

### Landscape Short Course

**Description:** This course is offered annually to landscape professionals, arborists, and anyone interested in learning more about the professional green industry. The course gives license holders the chance to earn points towards their certifications and update them on pertinent industry information.

**Location:** Williamson County Ag Expo Park (4215 Long Ln, Franklin, TN):

**Date:** January 10-11, 2024

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$100 virtual / \$125 in person including lunch

**Registration–** Preregistration and payment required. (Registration ends January 6)

[2024 Landscape Short Course | Williamson \(tennessee.edu\)](#)



### Winter Selection & Planting

**Description:** Fruit selection & planting for the winter season. In this class we will discuss winter planting of small fruits and fruit trees. We will also discuss how to choose the best varieties for Middle TN.

**Location:** Carter House (1140 Columbia Ave, Franklin, TN 37064)

**Date:** January 20, 2024

**Time:** 9-11:30am

**Cost:** \$10

**Registration:** Preregistration and payment required.

**Contact:** Taylor Reeder [treeder2@utk.edu](mailto:treeder2@utk.edu)



## Did you know...?

The Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program Volunteer Handbook is located online at [W099.pdf \(tennessee.edu\)](#).

Every Master Gardener or anyone thinking of becoming a Master Gardener should review this handbook. It provides a wealth of information about how the Master Gardener program is structured, how to become a Master Gardener, tracking volunteer hours and continuing education hours, levels of participation in the program, how and when to use the Master Gardener title, program policies, volunteer project guidelines, financial guidelines, and much more! Check it out today and bookmark it for future reference.



TENNESSEE EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM  
**Volunteer Handbook**

STATEWIDE GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES  
[MASTERGARDENER.TENNESSEE.EDU](http://MASTERGARDENER.TENNESSEE.EDU)



Real. Life. Solutions.™

MASTER GARDENER  
UT EXTENSION  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

# THE DIRT



## Newsletter and Website Articles Wanted

Special thanks to Matt Bergstrom, Taylor Reeder, Carol Eck, Rachel Fortuna, Valerie Silver, Susan Ramsey, Jack Melnick, Rick Borchert, Michelle Keith, Kristy Bergstrom, Wayne Galentine, Angela Park, and Holly Gardner for their contributions to this issue.

If you have photos or stories to share, you can get volunteer hours!

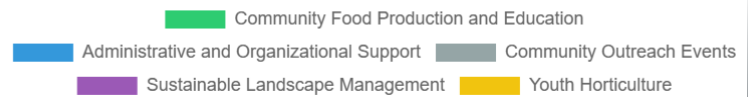
Keep contributing! Keep reading!  
Keep sharing!



### WCMGA by the Numbers

Volunteer hours reported for  
**2023** so far: **9,331**

#### Project Hours by Category



### Upcoming WCMGA Events

**November 13 - 6 p.m.** - WCMGA meeting and 2023 Master Gardener intern class graduation and potluck

**December** - No WCMGA meeting ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

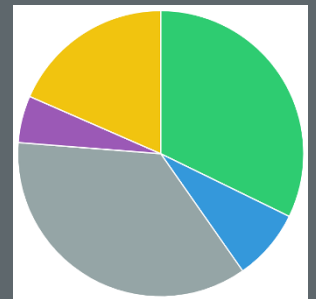
*Happy Holidays!!*

**January 8 - 6 p.m.** - WCMGA meeting -

Tammy Cherney - Williamson County Bee Association



Based on values determined by Independent Sector Website:  
Hours Value: **\$206,770.75**



### 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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