

WILLIAMSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

THE PERENNIAL



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Cover photo by Holly Gardner

A Message from our President

I know most of us hate these cold, dreary winter days. The garden is mostly asleep, the days are short and none of us are getting enough vitamin D. Given how long the growing season is here in Middle Tennessee, I relish the winter break. It gives me time to catch up on other things around the house, read the books that have been gathering on my nightstand and go for longer walks.

The quieter pace also allows us to step back, sort through our seeds and strategize for this new season. Matt starts all his vegetable seeds, some for our garden but others for neighbors and of course, the annual Spring Garden Festival & Plant Sale. I start my flower seeds and look for signs of spring in the garden. Most of our hellebores have begun to bloom and our Japanese pieris is covered in flowers. It's a welcome sight as most everything else appears bleak. As hard as it is, we resist the urge to "clean up" the garden until overnight lows are consistently in the 50s.

While I know that spring will look a bit different thanks to winter storm Fern, I'm excited for the season to come. You'll have an opportunity soon to sign up for the Tree Day distribution on Saturday, March 21. It's a great way to earn project volunteer hours and help our community recover from the ice storm. Great things are on the horizon for WCMGA this year, and I'm looking forward to celebrating another wonderful season with you.

Kristy Bergstrom

President, WCMGA



Photo by Kristy Bergstrom

Please welcome our new WCMGA Board Members!



President - Kristy Bergstrom - Kristy joined the WCMGA in 2020 after completing the intern program in 2019. She brings a strong background in corporate communications and her community involvement includes chairing the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Walk/Run in 2014 and was an active member of the Columbia Kiwanis Club for several years. She also served two terms on the Boys and Girls Club of

South Central Tennessee board, where she also chaired the communications committee.

Within WCMGA, Kristy has contributed extensively, managing the Facebook page, supporting the website committee, assisting with membership communications, writing articles for and helping edit *The Perennial*, and serving as the volunteer coordinator for the plant sale. Since 2023, she has also played a key role in the intern program and now serves as intern coordinator. She organizes mentors and ensures interns receive the experiences and tools they need to succeed. She is deeply committed to the mission and people of WCMGA.



Vice President - Melody Hall - Melody Hall completed the Master Gardener intern program in 2022 and joined the association in 2023. She brings leadership and managerial experience from her career in software development and previously served as president of a small artist group for four years.

Since joining WCMGA, Melody has been an active volunteer, serving on the Plant Sale Committee as team leader for the Garden Shed area, participating in planning for the Junior Master Gardener Camp, and assisting with arts and crafts. She has also volunteered at the Giving Garden, the Carnton period enslaved garden, and at the regional Master Gardener conference.

Outside the association, Melody is deeply involved in her community, volunteering with The Well in Spring Hill, the children's outreach organization Operation Stand Down, and her local church. Encouraged by fellow members to run for office, she brings strong organizational skills and technical expertise to her role as Vice President.

Treasurer - Julie (Wirt) Kameda - Julie completed the Master Gardener intern program in 2024 and officially joined the Williamson County Master Gardener Association in 2025. She has already been active in the association by supporting the Speakers Bureau library talks and helping coordinate Tree Day with Extension Agent Taylor, working alongside her sister and fellow member, Kathy.

She brings extensive financial expertise to the treasurer role following a distinguished career where she held senior leadership positions in finance, compensation, and global retirement planning. She also led labor cost strategy and compensation consulting for research and development teams. Earlier in her career, she served as controller for a fast-growing startup. Julie's strong financial background, paired with her early and enthusiastic involvement in WCMGA, makes her a highly qualified and dedicated choice for treasurer.



Director of Projects and Volunteers - David Miller - David Miller completed the Master Gardener intern program in 2024 and joined the association in 2025. He brings more than two decades of leadership experience in the architecture field, specializing in patient- and family-centered care concepts and the design of complex healthcare facilities. His work includes major projects for pediatric hospitals, intensive care units, dialysis centers, cancer treatment centers, trauma centers, and medical research facilities.

Since joining WCMGA, David has quickly become an active volunteer, serving on the Plant Sale Committee, speaking for the Speakers Bureau, mentoring the 2025 intern class, and volunteering at Carnton and at the Master Gardener booth during the Williamson County Fair. He looks forward to applying his extensive project management experience to support the WCMGA board and its programs in his role as Director of Projects and Volunteers.

Director of Education and Activities - Kate Osher - Kate completed the Master Gardener intern program in 2024 and joined the WCMGA in 2025. Before relocating to Tennessee, she worked as a sole-practitioner attorney in Los Angeles while serving as minors' counsel in children's court. She also taught as an adjunct professor at both Whittier Law School and UCLA. Kate has a long history of community involvement, serving on the advisory board for L.A. County's Department of Mental Health and Community Services for more than 24 years, and as an honorary member of the Public Policy Board for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Tennessee Chapter, since 2022. She has also served at Find Hope Franklin since 2023 and was an active member of the Franklin Rotary Club for four years. Kate completed her Master Gardener internship in honor of her mother.

Within WCMGA, Kate has volunteered at the annual plant sale and has become a regular volunteer at the Giving Garden, most recently joining the hoop house team. A lifelong learner and advocate for education, she is passionate about the mission of WCMGA and looks forward to serving as Director of Education and Activities.

HOAs & Landscaping & Rules...oh my!

By Ashley Nelson, WCMGA Member,
Lover of Landscaping & Recovering HOA President

Everyone's favorite topic - The Landscape Lover and HOAs.

For transparency (please hold the tomato throwing), I am a recovering HOA president. I feel I bring a unique perspective to this topic since I am also a newly branded Master Gardener. In this article, I hope to help bridge the gap or at least offer new insights between the landscape lover and the HOA entity.

My path to the HOA was fueled by landscaping motives. Aesthetically, financially and functionally, landscaping can make or break a community. For single dwelling residential HOA communities, landscaping (and all that entails) is typically the number one expense in the operational budget usually by a very wide margin.

Since HOA's are run by community volunteers, their talents and knowledge will widely vary.

Oftentimes, HOA Boards lack the landscaping knowledge to thoughtfully make decisions on their most expensive cost. If you currently find yourself living in an HOA, for the purposes of this article, we will assume they are open to ideas.



Things to consider when working with the HOA:

- They are volunteers and probably doing their best in their “free time”
- Oftentimes, the HOA's governing documents were based upon one or both of the following:
 - 1) Local government rules and regulations. You can double check this by looking to see if your town has subdivision regulations and how they compare to your HOA documents. The town's regulations often also include requirements for developers.
 - 2) Rules and regulations that the community originating developer created or cut and pasted from another neighborhood. These may or may not have been altered since the completion of the neighborhood.
- Arm yourself with local plans as well as rules and regulations. If there is conflict regarding landscaping with the HOA, it will help to get copies of the landscape plans for your community from the town and be familiar with their subdivision regulations.

- The HOA's hands may be tied due to regulations set by the town. If it's worth a new perspective, don't be afraid to take your question or concern to your town's Planning Department.
- If your community HOA is still controlled by the developer – KNOW the town's bonds process! In my case, through research, I was able to prove the developer was default on 77 trees and \$10,000 in irrigation. We received funds that were earmarked to complete those deficits.
- HOAs can serve multiple purposes depending on your lifestyle wants. Each HOA is different but many offer lawn care, trash pickup, and many amenities that, if cost is shared, it may become affordable versus an individual building their own, such as: pool, tennis or pickleball, fishing ponds, walking trails, etc.
- The rules and regulations that seem so restrictive also keep a general desired aesthetic and help maintain property values such as no cars on blocks in the front yard, etc.)

Ways YOU, the Landscape Lover, can help the HOA:

Landscape committee! If there isn't already an advisory landscape committee, then ask if you can form one. Open it up to other landscape lovers. This is a vital role!

Some of the tasks a knowledgeable landscape committee can help with are the following:

- Walking the grounds and identifying dead or diseased landscaping, then offering solutions
- Reviewing turf management
- Assisting with the landscaping/turf management contracts such as what areas are included and what are the problem areas, etc.
- Are the contracts specific enough to aid in turf and tree/plant survival? For example: Is there 4 inches of mulch against the tree trunks or are they pruning trees and shrubs at the right time of year?
- Can the landscaping rules be altered to allow for more freedom? If so, offer solutions that can be regulated. For example, think vines on houses...how would you write a rule to allow it or disallow it that can be standardized and regulated?
- Offer solutions and explanations to the very nuanced genre of landscaping and gardening that may be a knowledge gap by the board.
- Review local government landscaping standards and be a knowledge reference.



- Remind the HOA the part landscaping plays not only in aesthetics and property value, but also in things such as stormwater run-off, erosion control, native habitats, sight and sound buffer, sense of community. etc.

Knowing that HOA operational budgets are largely spent on landscaping, Master Gardeners are an invaluable resource. Sometimes rules and regulations are set as a default by the town or developer and can be easily altered. Depending on the document in which the HOA rule is written, it may or may not require a vote by the community.

Earlier, I generously offered the assumption that HOA Boards would hopefully be open for new ideas. If your HOA Board proves to be unresponsive by email, then at the next open HOA meeting, kindly state your points and ask your questions publicly requesting change.

The influx of new Tennessee residents and development sprawling trends have not been in the favor of landscaping or salvaging existing greenery. It will take time and effort, but new standards can be realized. If you find yourself in an HOA and frustrated by policy, obviously you are not alone. Realize the asset that your landscaping and gardening knowledge can bring to your community.

You can make positive change that will be reflected for years to come.

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

[Garden Quotes | The Quote Garden](#)



THE VINE: News



Photo by Holly Gardner

Our November WCMGA meeting was filled with celebration.

We celebrated our 2025 interns graduating the Master Gardener program. Our members mingled with the interns and hopefully, many of the interns will join our association.

We celebrated our program leaders and our mentors who donated their time and efforts to guiding and helping our interns this year.

We celebrated each other as fellow plant lovers and nurturers, volunteers, and supporters. We celebrated the delicious food provided by our talented and generous members.

Our intern teams shared their presentations. Thirty-three interns graduated from the 2025 Williamson County Master Gardener program! Each intern completes fifteen weeks of in-person coursework, a 5-month group project, and 40 volunteer service hours.

This year, we had two interns surpass 100 volunteer hours and three certify their home gardens as Tennessee Smart Yards! That is extraordinary!

A special thank you to our incredible Extension Agent Taylor Reeder and Intern Coordinator Kristy Bergstrom as well as our WCMGA mentors, all of whom help make this program possible.



Photo by Holly Gardner

Our Hospitality Committee did a fantastic job putting everything together. A big shout out to outgoing Vice-President, Rachel Fortuna (at right with Cheri Liddell) for overseeing and leading this committee the last few years (and for providing great photos).



Photos by Rachel Fortuna



Photo by Holly Gardner



Photos by Holly Gardner



Photos by Rachel Fortuna



At our January association meeting, new WCMGA President, Kristy Bergstrom, shared the new TEMG website. Also on the agenda was the need for volunteers for various positions on the Garden Festival and Plant Sale Committee. See Jack Melnick or Shannon Batty for more information. We also need help with administrative support and technical meeting support. Please see Kristy for more information.

Our speaker was John Kell, founder of local non-profit, The Habitat Connection and long-time outdoor enthusiast and wildlife advocate. He has a BS/MS in Industrial Engineering, is a certified Tennessee Naturalist, and is a federally licensed bird bander involved in bird research projects with local parks and nature sanctuaries. John's organization, The Habitat Connection, was established in 2020 in response to increasing scientific evidence that habitat loss and fragmentation is a major cause of



Photos by Holly Gardner

declining bird populations. Their goal is to empower Middle Tennesseans to regenerate native habitat on their properties in order to improve ecosystem health and connectivity for birds and other life forms, including us. Their primary focus is small property owners, such as individual homeowners, private home owner associations, property management companies, churches, schools, and business parks. One of their key objectives is to shift property owners away from turf grass and hybridized nursery landscaping to ecologically beneficial lawn and garden practices.

For more information:

[The Habitat Connection](#)

[Tennessee Invasive Plant Council](#)

Ryan Palmer provided the flower arrangement for the meeting and made the vase display.



Photo by Rachel Fortuna

Did you know...?

Our Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale is an annual event and our only fundraising project. Along with many plants provided by our Master Gardener members, there is also garden-related vendors, food trucks, UT plant diagnostics, educational and non-profit booths, crafts, and educational speakers.



Even before the event, our Garden Festival committee invested many hours into planning. Members grow plants from seeds and dig and divide items from their yards and properties. Donated new and used garden items are collected, cleaned, and sorted for sale in our Garden Shed area. Craft projects are created. Garden-themed vendors are recruited. The festival is set up the day before the event with plants and items priced and sorted.

The day of the event many hands are needed for multiple jobs including cashiers, ticket writers, traffic control, general coordination, and educational speaker management, and many, many volunteers are needed to answer questions from patrons and help them find the right plants for their needs.

Total WCMGA volunteer hours reported for 2025 = 2,645

Total WCMGA volunteers for 2025 = 117

Number of attendees = 1,250

My Visit to the 2025 Royal Chelsea Flower Show

By Anna Letcher, WCMGA Member

I had the privilege of attending the 2025 Royal Chelsea Flower Show in London as part of my long-awaited retirement trip. I had always dreamed of attending but really did not know what to expect. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) organizes the show.

The size of the show is overwhelming! It covers 20 acres with more than 400 horticultural exhibits including 31 show gardens, nursery exhibits, scientific-based displays, and vendors (called tradestands). There are four categories of gardens: Show Gardens, Small Show Gardens, Balcony Gardens and Houseplant Studios with awards. Also, The Great Pavilion covers almost four acres with dozens of flower-specific displays from gardening & nursery experts from around the world. There was also an "Ask the RHS" booth where you could ask experts your gardening questions.

The show goes on rain or shine with the show gardens and many tradestands outdoors.

On the day we attended, it was raining when we arrived and the crowds weren't too bad. By mid-morning, the rain stopped and it became a crush of people! At that time, we decided to go indoors and explore the pavilion. It really is too much to see and absorb in a single visit. (Next time, I'll get a run of show pass!)

Most of the garden designers were onsite and shared info about their garden and how they prepared for



RCFS Entrance - the main entrance to the flower show



Sample Show Gardens - there were 15 show gardens this year.



Monty Don's Dog Garden - another show garden; it has been relocated to the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London



Sample Show Gardens - there were 15 show gardens this year.

the show. It takes 25 days to build the show and 11 days to break it down. The designer I spoke with said that it took about 15 months to plan and execute his garden. The hardest part is to have all plants flowering at the same time regardless of their normal blooming season! I cannot fathom the work that goes into this annual event. Each garden provided a leaflet about the garden, information about the partner charity that was the inspiration for their design, and a QR code to scan and see the garden's plant list.



Succulent Garden from South Africa

Naming a favorite part of the show would be hard - but I enjoyed seeing the Japanese Tea Garden (best in show) , the daffodil and protea nursery exhibits, the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society garden, the Karoo Succulent & Rock Garden from South Africa, and the David Austin Roses exhibit in The Great Pavilion. The biggest surprise about the show gardens is they are roped off - you can only view them from the edge. Not being able to walk through the gardens (they all had paths) was disappointing but understandable with almost 150,000 attendees over 5 days.



Daffodil Display in main pavilion



David Austin Rose Display in main pavilion

I will always remember this special experience.

The Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) is the United Kingdom's gardening charity, helping people and plants grow. They get the nation growing, inspiring millions at five gardens and world famous shows like RHS Chelsea Flower Show. They work with schools and communities. RHS Hilltop leads cutting-edge scientific research and safeguards botanical archives.

If you would like to read more about the RHS and the Chelsea Flower Show, visit:

[RHS - UK's leading gardening charity / RHS](#)

[History of RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025/ RHS](#)

[History of RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024/ RHS](#)

Have you visited at interesting location for horticulture?

Do you have a particular plant, flower, or tree that you love?

Do you have a favorite WCMGA project?

WCMGA members, you can get volunteer hours for writing articles and taking photos! Share your experiences and knowledge with others!

Email ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com with submissions and questions.

Late Night Lessons in Container Gardening

By Tammy Lenox, 2025 Master Gardener Intern

As an intern in last year's Master Gardener program, I've had the unique opportunity to combine classroom learning with hands-on experience in one of the most beautiful corners of our community—right in downtown Franklin.

If you've strolled past the benches on Main Street and admired the colorful, thriving planters, you've seen the work of Container Creations, a local business owned by Kim Hays. Kim is not only a talented container designer but also a passionate advocate for educating others about the art and joy of container gardening. She generously sponsored my enrollment in the Master Gardener class, and I'm lucky enough to work for her—my most notable work is watering those very pots late at night when the streets are quiet and the stars are out.

The planters downtown are self-watering, which is a real game-changer in the world of container gardening. Depending on the season, I may only need to water once every ten days in cooler months, but in the sweltering heat of a Tennessee summer, it's usually twice a week or more to keep everything looking its best.

Working with Kim has opened my eyes to the power of container gardening—not just for beautifying public spaces, but for bringing people together, sparking curiosity, and inspiring creativity. I've learned that with the right design and a little care, even a single pot can transform a sidewalk into a welcome invitation.

I'm deeply grateful for the chance to further my education through the Master Gardener program. When I first began working for Container Creations, I knew very little about flowers or plants. But Kim saw potential and encouraged me to grow—literally and figuratively—by supporting my enrollment in the program. She was right; learning more about plant species and how they thrive in our Tennessee climate has been invaluable. I've gained both knowledge and confidence, and I'm excited to continue growing in the world of horticulture. The next time you're downtown, pause for a moment to admire the containers—they're a labor of love, from one gardener (or two) to another.



Photo by Tammy Lenox

Pineapple Sage

By Brenda Musick, WCMGA Member

Salvia elengans, commonly known as Pineapple Sage is a fragrant, semi-woody sub shrub with leaves that smell like a pineapple. The foliage is either bright green or a golden chartreuse depending on the variety. The nectar in its beautiful, red, tubular blooms attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

This shrub, native to Central America, can grow three to four feet tall and almost four feet wide. A sunny, well drained location is best with six hours or more of sunlight and a balanced, slow-release fertilizer can encourage growth. It is a perennial in zones eight through eleven but can be grown here in Middle Tennessee with some extra care. It is cold-hardy until twenty degrees and can be covered with a frost cloth during colder weather. Also, mulching around the base of the plant in late fall will help the shrubs survive until spring. New leaves usually emerge from the base of the plant in April; then the old foliage can be removed. A large container of pineapple sage can be placed in the garage during cold winter temperatures.

Both the leaves and the blooms are edible and the red flowers can be made into jams and jellies or tossed into a green salad. The leaves, used fresh, can be added to summer beverages or added to fruit salad. The dried leaves can be infused into lemonade or made into tea. Health benefits may be possible, at least according to some long-standing herbal traditions, which often link pineapple sage with relaxation or digestive ease. However, these are cultural observations, not medical claims.

Last year, I planted pineapple sage in my herb garden and enjoyed its gorgeous, red blooms in August.



Photos by Brenda Musick

THE BARK: Monthly To-do List

FEBRUARY

- **Plant now:** Sow seeds of radishes and cold-hardy lettuces. When daffodils appear, plant spinach, turnips, and peas. Cover the pea bed with clear plastic until sprouts begin to emerge; then, immediately switch to a floating row cover to protect the seedlings from weather and birds.
- **Indoors under lights:** start seeds of herbs and annual flowers—such as ageratum, petunia, and snapdragons—that need 8 to 10 weeks to reach transplant size
- **Watch for garden sales and order seeds from catalogs**
- **Cut back monkey grass (Liriope) before new growth appears**
- **Green/English and sugar snap peas can be direct sown in the garden in February**
- **Start chitting early potatoes by standing them on end in an egg carton and place them in a bright, cool, frost-free place**
- **Build any new raised beds**
- **Winter prune apple trees and pear trees while they are still dormant**



Photos by Holly Gardner

- **Shred or chop any disease-free woody prunings before you add them to compost bins to help speed up decomposition**
- **Extend the life of Valentine's Day cut flowers by changing the water daily and recutting the stems every couple of days, making sure foliage is kept above the water line**
- **Remove dust from your house plants by rinsing them in the shower**

March

- **Plant now:** In mid-March, sow hardy vegetables, such as carrots, beets, kohlrabi, radishes, leaf lettuces, and turnips
- Transplant onions, shallots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, collards, white potatoes and asparagus crowns to the garden
- Set out herbs, such as rosemary, chives, and thyme - but not tender basil yet! Wait until after the last frost date in your area
- When night temps get above 40 degrees, feed your pansies with a water-soluble fertilizer such as 20-20-20



April

- Thin crowded carrots, chard, and lettuce
- Pass by broccoli and cabbage on sale at garden centers—hot weather will soon arrive, causing plants to go to seed instead of forming edible heads
- **Buy now:** Select new azalea and rhododendron bushes while they're in bloom to make sure that the color complements your landscape
- Remove floating row covers from peas early in the month and provide trellis support
- Mulch around the base of cool-season crops to keep their roots cool and moist
- Begin purchasing transplants of warm-season crops
- Go to our WCMGA garden festival and plant sale!!

For more information, see flyer on the following page or click here:

[Garden Festival and Plant Sale \(wcmga.net\)](http://wcmga.net)



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Photos by Holly Gardner

Another good resource is the [2026 Tennessee Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden Calendar](#)

2026



Spring Garden Festival and Plant Sale

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

The grounds of Williamson County Ag Expo Park - West Side
4215 Long Lane, Franklin, Tennessee 37064 (Rain or Shine)

- Beautiful perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs, and more
- Many plants grown by Master Gardeners
- Garden Shed area featuring new and gently used items for your home and garden
- University of TN Plant Diagnostics information
- Vendors and Food Trucks
- Educational Speakers
- Arts and Crafts
- Children's Area including storytelling, face painting, and other fun things to do



FREE Admission

Come join us for this annual fundraiser for Williamson County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA), a 501(c)(3) organization. The mission of the WCMGA is to provide research-based horticultural education, while promoting environmental stewardship, via community volunteerism delivered by a dedicated and skilled volunteer network. The WCMGA is part of the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office. For more information about WCMGA and our projects, please visit our website at wcmga.net.



Member Gardens



Dahlias, just before the killing frost in Mary McBean's garden.



From Francie Owen's garden last year:

Shaggy Mane mushrooms - These have been coming up all spring. They look fresh and beautiful the first day, then they turn black and drippy and are gone after that. So fun to see.

Poppy and bees

Member Gardens (continued)



Lenten Rose (Hellebore) from Rachel Fortuna's garden in early spring.



From Susan Ramsay's garden:
Zinna - I planted some later in the season, so the butterflies have something after other flowers have faded.
Mountain mint - which is perfect in the fall.
Mexican petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana*)



Member Gardens (continued)

Beautiful colors from Tracie Lovell's garden.



We are enjoying these garden photos so much! Thank you so much for sending them! We can always use more.

If you submitted some photos, but have not seen them yet, please stay tuned as they will appear in upcoming issues.

If you would like to have your photos shared or your garden featured, please contact us at ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com.



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](#)

Seed Starting - February 26, 2026

Description - The focus of this class will be starting your own vegetables and annuals from seed. We will guide you on the best practices for seed starting so that you can have a successful start to your home garden. You will leave with a few supplies and seeds to start your own garden journey!

[Seed Starting | Williamson County](#)

Permaculture and Edible Landscaping - April 16, 2026

Description - Join us for our class discussing the elements of landscape design and how you can utilize them to create unique and interactive landscapes. We will focus on adding edible plants in fun and beautiful ways to make the most of each space.

[Permaculture & Edible Landscaping | Williamson County](#)

Dig, Divide, and Design with Perennials - April 16, 2026

Description - Let's get dirty and learn all about caring for perennial plants in your landscape! Perennials are the perfect addition to every landscape in Middle Tennessee.

[Dig, Divide, & Design with Perennials | Williamson County](#)

Strawberry Workshop - May 5, 2026

Description - Join us on the farm for a workshop all about growing strawberries in Middle Tennessee. Learn the dos and don'ts of strawberry production from local experts.

[Strawberry Workshop | Williamson County](#)

Jams and Preserves - May 12, 2026

Description - Making your own jam takes a little time, patience, and sticky fingers, but soon you'll be rewarding yourself with jars of jam for days to come. Learn through hands-on opportunities how to make wonderful jams and preserves using the water bath canning method. [Jams and Preserves | Williamson County](#)

[Williamson County](#)

Preregistration and payment is required for all classes. Classes may be purchased as a series or individually. Some classes may be free. See links above for more information. 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](#)



Friends of WCMGA - Upcoming Events

2026 Plant Swap

About the Event
Rutherford County Master Gardeners invite you to our 2026 annual plant swap! Please bring healthy, pest-free, and labeled plants rooted in soil.

Note

- Bring One, Take One
- Bring Ten, Take Ten
- No Invasive Plants Accepted
- <https://www.tnipc.org/invasive-plants/>

PLEASE BRING PLANTS THAT WOULD EXCITE YOU TO TAKE HOME

APRIL 25, 2026
FROM 09:00 AM - 11:00 AM

@ LANE AGRI-PARK
315 JOHN R. RICE BLVD
MURFREESBORO, TN

ENTRY
FREE

FB: MASTER GARDENERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, TN
IG: @MASTERGARDENERSOFRUTHERFORDTN
MASTERGARDENERS.RC@GMAIL.COM

[Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, TN | Murfreesboro TN | Facebook](#)

Maury County MASTER GARDENERS

ANNUAL **PLANT Sale**

Saturday, May 9, 2026
8a-12pm

Baker Building Maury Co. Fairgrounds
1018 Maury County Park Dr. Columbia

MauryCountyMasterGardeners.org

SCAN ME!

Sponsored by:
Maury County Parks & Recreation

[Maury County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale | MCMG](#)

May 16, 2026
8:30 AM-1:00 PM

Cedars of Lebanon State Park
Assembly Hall
328 Cedar Forest Rd
Lebanon, TN 37090

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SALE
Plant with a Purpose

Over **120** Species of Native Tennessee
Perennials, Trees & Shrubs!
wilsoncountymg.org

MASTER GARDENERS OF WILSON COUNTY

[2026 Tennessee Native Plant Sale | Wilson Co Master Gardener Association](#)

[The Herb Society of Nashville - Home](#)

Plant Sale

brought to you by
THE HERB SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE

Saturday, April 12, 2025
8:30 am - 1:00 pm
The Fairgrounds Nashville - Expo 1
(note new location this year!)

Extensive & Unique Selection
of
Herbs, Vegetables, Fruit Trees & Shrubs

New Varieties Added Yearly

Expert recommendations on
plant selection, care, and usage
by our knowledgeable members

Plant list, map & more @ herbsocietynashville.org

Friends of WCMGA - Upcoming Events (continued)

2026 PERENNIAL PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE

Middle Tennessee's largest and earliest plant sale.
Featuring hundreds of locally grown native and hybrid plants.

When: Sat., April 11, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Come early to avoid disappointment and get the best selection.

Where: Brand New Location: Woodmont Hills Church at 3710 Franklin Pike in Nashville. (Near Thompson Lane)

The site offers lots of free parking, easy access to I-65 at Armory Dr., and a buyer-friendly plant concierge pick up.

Hundreds of locally grown natives and hybrid perennials, vines, herbs and shrubs at great prices. Profits support a horticulture scholarship at Tennessee Tech University and free, local educational programming.



[Nashville TN Plant Sale by Perennial Plant Society of Middle TN](#)



Annual Plant Sale

When: April 25, 2026

Location: Memorial Park, Hendersonville

[Sumner County Master Gardeners - Plant Sale](#)

UT Garden Trials

Are you interested in finding out "Which variety will do best in my Tennessee home garden?"

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture researchers work with gardeners across Tennessee to test cultivars and varieties in their home gardens and report the results.

Would you like to participate?

Find out more at the links below:

[Home Gardeners Test Varieties of Vegetables and Flowers | Institute News](#)

[Home Garden Vegetable Trial | Master Gardener Program](#)

[2026 University of Tennessee Home Vegetable Trial Order Form](#)

[Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trials 2025 Results](#)

Master Gardeners of Wilson County

Plant Sale

HELD DURING
SPRING FEST
MAY 2, 2026 - 10AM-4PM



Proceeds from the Plant Sale goes towards the Master Gardener projects in Fiddlers Grove.

Follow us on Facebook @springfestinthegrove
Fiddlers Grove Historic Village
845 E. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087

[Wilson County Master Gardener Association](#)

THE DIRT

February

- * **February 5 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - Brentwood Library - “Sow Cool! Gardening All Winter Long with Winter Sowing” - Presented by Sande Sullivan - Register [HERE](#)
- * **February 9 - 1-3 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - “Cultivating Your Green Thumb: Foundations for Successful Gardening” (Virtual only) - Register [HERE](#)
- * **February 9 - WCMGA meeting - 6:00 p.m.** - Williamson County Ag Expo Park - Speaker: Sarah Ruzic of Tennessee Kitchen Gardens

March

- * **March 9 - 1-3 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series - Williamson County Library** - “Harmonious Landscapes: Practical Strategies for Successful Gardens” - Register [HERE](#)
- * **March 9 - WCMGA meeting - 6 p.m.** - Williamson County Ag Expo Park - Speaker: Katy Kilbourne of the TN Forestry Division - Invasive Pests
- * **March 12 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - Brentwood Library - “Aging Gracefully with Your Garden” - Presented by Mary Pemberton - Register [HERE](#)

April

- * **April 13 - WCMGA meeting - 6 p.m.** - Williamson County Ag Expo Park - Project Presentations
- * **April 16 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - Brentwood Library - “Why I Fell in Love with Hydrangeas (and You Might Too)” - Presented by Lisa Forsythe - Register [HERE](#)
- * **April 20 - 1-3 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series:** “Shrubs that Shine in Tennessee Landscapes” - Register [HERE](#)

May

- * **May 2 - 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. - WCMGA Garden Festival and Plant Sale** - Grounds of the Williamson County Ag Expo Park - [WCMGA Garden Festival and Plant Sale](#)
- * **May 11 - 1-3 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - Williamson County Library - “Color Your Seasons Beautiful” - Register [HERE](#)
- * **May 11 - WCMGA meeting - 6 p.m. - NOTE: Change of location - Williamson County Library** - Speaker: Rita Venable, Author of **Butterflies of TN** - “Three Really Good Reasons to Plant Trees for Butterflies (native trees)”
- * **May 21 - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Library Garden Talk Series** - Brentwood Library - “Sow A Bounty of Butterflies ” - Presented by Francie Owens - Register [HERE](#)



Newsletter and Website Articles Wanted

Special thanks to Kristy Bergstrom, Ashley Nelson, Anna Lecher, Tammy Lenox, Brenda Musick, Rachel Fortuna, Mary McBean, Francie Owens, Susan Ramsay, Holly Gardner, Lisa Forsythe, and Tracie Lovell for their contributions to this issue.

Great job on sending articles, news stories, and photos! Keep up the good work!

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
Total Volunteer hours reported for
2025 = 10,970

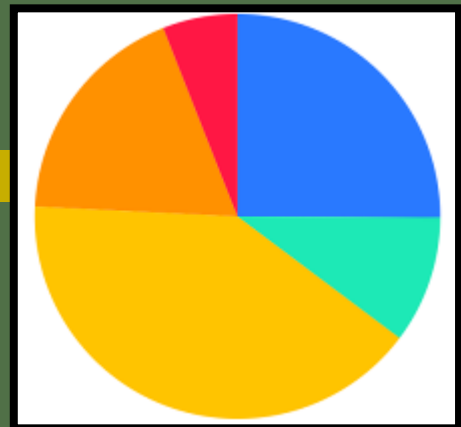
Based on values determined by
Independent Sector Website:
Hours Value: **\$367,382.96**

- Community Food Production and Education
- Administrative and Organizational Support
- Community Outreach Events
- Youth Horticulture
- Sustainable Landscape Management

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 University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) and the UT/TSU Williamson County Extension Office.



Contact Us

Editor: Holly Gardner

General Email: ThePerennialWCMGA@gmail.com

Address: 4215 Long Lane Suite 200, Franklin, TN 37064