



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener
Fayette County

NEWSLETTER

FAYETTE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S ASSOCIATION



The Prez Sez...

Happy Fall!

It was so fun to see so many of you at the picnic. Thank you, Susan Umberger, for hosting us! While there is plenty of 2024 left, we are working on new volunteer opportunities for 2025! We have some fun, new options to put our master gardener training to work! It's exciting and we will be recruiting for those at the January annual meeting.

There's a new class of extension master gardeners in training now. We met a few of them at the picnic and are really looking forward to welcoming them into the Association after they graduate!

If you haven't gotten all your continuing education hours, check on page 6 for a list of upcoming CE offerings during Tree Week, Oct. 11 to 20.



What do you think? Let me know at suziemac01@aol.com. Can't wait to hear your ideas! Thank you!

*Happy Gardening!
Susan McDaniel*

Newsletter Committee:

MARY MILLER, CO-CHAIR
SUSAN MILLER, CO-CHAIR
JUDI DANIELS
PAMELA DORREL
SUSAN MCDANIEL

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**Behind a gardener
is a house full of indoor
chores not getting done.**

Master Gardener Picnic



Our 2024 picnic was held on Sept. 15 in the beautiful garden of Susan Umburger. Delicious food was enjoyed by all, including many members of our incoming 2024 class. Thanks to Susan for her hospitality.



Need to renew your membership?
Send your annual dues of \$20.00 to FCMGA, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504

2024 EXTENSION GARDEN

BY PAM DORREL

The most extensive project every year for Fayette County Master Gardeners is the demonstration garden, located on about an acre of sloping land behind the Fayette County Extension Office. Every year, Jamie finds brave souls to head up the perennial garden, herb garden and vegetable garden. This year, in order to combine our volunteer efforts, Jamie chose a go-to person to coordinate the work of all three gardens. This year that very brave soul has been Martha Taulbee. First of all, thank you Martha!



As February ended, there were so many weeds in the perennial garden that the extension office put down a pre-emergent and mulch, and work in the garden began in early March. Esther Mach volunteered to lead the vegetable garden and Judi Daniels is leading the herb garden.



The year began with a meeting in late February to talk about goals. The group decided to continue meeting on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Those at the meeting had the chance to meet Reena Martin, the new Horticulture Extension Assistant and Jamie's new sidekick. She'll be working more closely with the Master Gardener program in the future. She's doing most of the work of teaching the new class this year.

March began with cold temperatures but Natalie G. and Ken J. made it out and demolished the three raised beds that were at the front of the garden. Natalie built two new 4' x 12' raised beds with a generous pathway between and they were installed. Volunteers pulled lots and lots and lots of weeds, put plastic on the in-ground beds to help control weeds, and found ready to use compost in the bins to spread on several of the beds. By the end of the month they had planted potatoes, carrots and beets, among other things.

Chen harvests radishes

In April, the peas, beets, carrots, radishes, swiss chard, and lettuce were starting to come up and the asparagus was ready for harvesting. Volunteers planted pots of mixed vegetables (kale, cabbage, lettuce) for Jamie for the Bluegrass Fair (which took place the first weekend in May). Organic Preen was added to the garlic bed and the raised beds. Fran donated lots of perennials from her own garden, including Creeping phlox, Shasta daisies, blanket flowers, daylilies, stella d'oro daylilies, iris and daffodil bulbs, and hostas too. Esther, who was doing almost all of the vegetable planting, planted more kale, lettuce, and other vegetables. She also started tomatoes and peppers from seed for transplanting to the garden.

The month of May began with peonies coming up in the perennial bed. The decision was made that volunteer involvement was too low to accommodate a bigger vegetable garden, so part of one of the in-ground beds would be returned back to grass. Sunny started that process. After the mid-month cold snap, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, melons, beans, peppers, squash, onions and other veggies were planted. Basil was planted in the herb beds. Work began on the succulent bed to remove the overgrowth of clover and replant more succulents, including hens and chicks and other succulents. Lots of vegetables were ready and began to be harvested.



A high tunnel over the broccoli prevents pests



In June the temperatures began to soar, but volunteers got the garlic harvested and hung up for curing. Lots of vegetables were harvested, including beets and last of the peas, kale, squash, carrots, potatoes, onions, Swiss chard. The asparagus was tied up, the watermelons began coming out and the hibiscus was in bloom. Several days a week were spent just watering and weeding.

July ended with a plan to plant a few more crops for the fall. Volunteers spread more compost over the garden and harvested lots and lots of vegetables. It was a bit of fun when Chen was awarded the “dumpster dive award” when she had to retrieve her tools that were accidentally thrown into the dumpster!

In August and September volunteers continued weeding and watering and harvested herbs, squash, cucumbers, Swiss chard, tomatoes, peppers, donated apples and peaches from Tom Malone. Four or five watermelons and a yellow squash that were almost ready for harvest mysteriously disappeared from the garden. The group planted a fall crop of carrots and placed wire around the bed, and planted a fall kale crop. They put high tunnels over the broccoli and cauliflower, since caterpillars were starting to show up. They picked them off and sprayed BT on broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and elsewhere. They also harvested rosemary and sage, eggplant, tomatoes, Swiss chard, peppers and cucumbers.



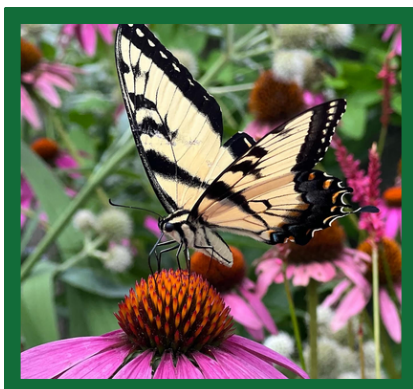
Beautiful hibiscus in the perennial garden

A special thank you Martha Taulbee and Esther Mach and to everyone who made it out to the garden this year to volunteer, or just to encourage others or enjoy the beauty of the garden!

Master Gardener Social Hour



Several questionnaires sent out indicate that members want more social activities, so we now have a planning committee with Judi Daniels and Patte Crampton as co-chairs. Our first "social hour" was held August 22 before a Toolbox class. We had 15 attendees, plenty of conversation, concerns and information shared, and I'm willing to bet each one of us met at least one member whose name we never knew knew before the meeting. Plans are to have these meetings on a regular basis so that we can get to know each other, especially since there is a brand new class with 27 new Master Gardeners. If you missed it, we hope you will join us next time. We'll have cookies and lemonade to sweeten the deal!



EASTERN SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL

Butterfly Host Plants by Susan McDaniel

Many of us are already very aware that, in general, adult butterflies feed on flowers that are bright and produce nectar. Zinnias and Mexican sunflowers are a favorite of butterflies in my yard. However, when it comes to laying their eggs, butterflies are much more discerning and unique in their choices: Each butterfly variety has a particular plant or plants that they will lay eggs on and that their caterpillars can eat. These are known as a butterfly's host plant. Host plants can be trees, herbs, flowers and even grasses (I'm looking at you, grass skippers!)



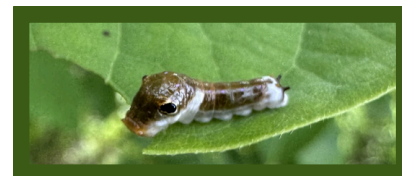
MONARCH BUTTERFLY

According to the UK Entomology Department, below is a list of host plants (caterpillar food) for some common Kentucky butterflies. One I'd like to draw your attention to is the Great Spangled Fritillary. Their host plant is the violet. If you wage war on violets, please consider leaving a few violets in an inconspicuous place in your landscape for these butterflies!



MONARCH CATERPILLAR ON MILKWEED

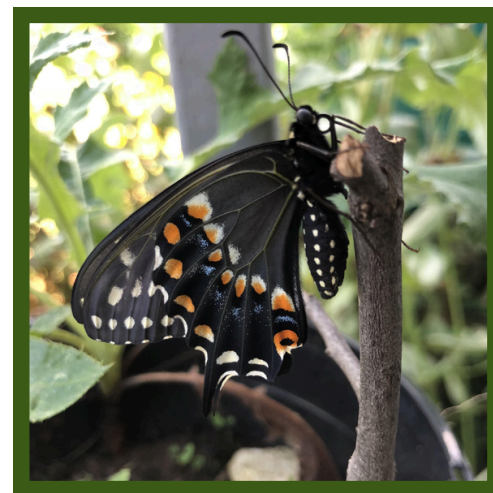
- Other host plants include:
- Buckeye Butterfly - snapdragon
- Comma - nettle, elm
- Monarch - milkweed
- Mourning Cloak - willow, elm, poplar, aspen, birch, hackberry
- Painted Lady - daisy, hollyhock
- Red Admiral - nettle
- Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - cherry, ash, birch, tulip tree, lilac
- Viceroy - willow, poplar, apple
- Black Swallowtail - parsley, fennel, dill and Queen Anne's Lace (plus a few others)
- Grass Skippers (the cute ones that look like fighter jets) - native grasses such as switchgrass
- Spicebush Swallowtail - Spicebush and Sassafras, sweetbay magnolia and tulip tree.



EASTERN SPICEBUSH SWALLOWTAIL CATERPILLAR ON SPICEBUSH



EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL LARVA ON PARSLEY



EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY

Continuing Education

by Fran O'Connor

Over the summer the Gardeners Toolbox classes and Lexington Arboretum Naturalist and Perennial Gardening Series have continued to provide opportunities for Continuing Education hours. We would like the feedback of those who attended any of the Arboretum Series presentations. If you have not already done so, please email Graham Rowles or Fran O'Connor with your thoughts on the event you attended. This helps us plan for 2025 opportunities.



In July Cheri Fouts organized a tour guided by Miles Penn of the Lexington Cemetery Annuals and Perennials. Miles spent almost two hours with the group and covered topics related to the cemetery itself, gardening and pests in the beautiful Lexington landmark. In August Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort conducted a tour of their Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, with tastings of some of their spirits along the way. The Distillery and Garden grounds cover over 400 hundred acres and is a Level Two Accredited Arboreta. We plan to include a spring tour on next year's agenda as the gardens include a wide variety of perennials, shrubs and trees.

Upcoming events include a presentation by Jim Embry related to sustainable communities and food justice. This will take place Saturday, September 7, from 2:00 – 3:30 in the Central Library. A tour of Bernheim Forest is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, at 10:30. We will have a behind the scenes look at the Nursery and Edible Gardens growing operations. There are additional opportunities to obtain CE credits listed in the FCMG Continuing Education Opportunities 2024, which was recently emailed out by the Extension Center and is online at the Master Gardeners' website.

If you have need a copy of the 2024 CE Opportunities, please contact Fran O'Connor at fsoofssi@gmail.com. Here's hoping for sufficient rain through the late summer and fall to take some stress off our gardens.

Continuing Education Opportunities

The week of October 11 to October 20 has been designated as Tree Week Lexington and there are a number of events scheduled which will qualify for Continuing Education credit. If you still need hours for credit before the end of the year, these opportunities offer a way to fill the gap.

The website for more information is: [TreeWeekLexington.com](https://treeweeklexington.com). The events that will qualify for CE hours are:

- Fall Trees of Shaker Village – October 5, 2:00 pm (2 hours CE credit)
- Native Seed Collection and Propagation – October 10, 5:00 pm (3 hours CE credit)
- Diversity of Trees on the UK Campus – October 12, 10:00 am (1 hour CE credit)
- Agroforestry with KSU at Raven Nature Sanctuary – October 13, 1:00 pm (1 hour CE credit)
- Tree I.D. Walk at McConnell Springs – October 13, 2:00 pm (1 hour CE credit)
- Meadowthorpe Tree Walk – October 13, 2:30 pm (1 hour CE credit)
- A Cemetery History in 8 Trees – October 14, 5:30 pm (1 hour CE credit)
- Tree Identification – Lexington Senior Center – October 14, 10:00 am (1 hour CE credit)
- Tour of Lexington Cemetery Collection of Conifers – October 16, 2:00 pm (2 hours CE credit)

We believe the events are free, but some do require preregistration. If you go to the website <https://treeweeklexington.com/events/> and click on each event, it will give a more detailed description along with instructions of how to register online if required.

HOW DID I MISS THIS WEBINAR WEDNESDAY: NEW PLANTS FOR 2024

BY PAM DORREL

A few days ago I was playing around on my computer and I jumped down a rabbit hole looking for online information about interesting and new plant varieties. My search led me to a recording of a webinar from April, called *Beyond Begonias: New Plants for 2024* taught by Amy Aldenderfer, UK Horticulture Agent for Hardin County. I shouldn't have been surprised that this was a Webinar Wednesday presentation!

I've lived in Kentucky for almost ten years and I've been a Master Gardener for almost two years, so I feel like I don't have an excuse for not being more aware of the amazing and informative webinars offered several weeks of the year by our own University of Kentucky Horticulture Extension Agents throughout Kentucky.

The webinars as well as other articles are presented by Kentucky Hort News via their website at www.kentuckyhortnews.com. The topics are intended to be of interest to home gardeners: lawns, landscapes, trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, fruits, pests, and disease prevention. Webinar Wednesday seasons start in February or March and run through October of each year.



Video recordings of the webinars are available on the Kentucky Hort News website and also on YouTube on the Horticulture Webinar Wednesday channel. You can subscribe on the website to get the bi-monthly newsletter with articles and information about upcoming webinars. You can also subscribe to the YouTube channel to be notified when new videos are released. Kentucky Hort News produced its first Webinar Wednesday in the spring of 2020 and is winding up its fifth season this October and they're all available to watch again and again.



I've heard that Jamie is considering the possibility of allowing Master Gardeners to earn continuing education credits by attending these webinars online. That would be awesome!

By the way, in the April 24 webinar Amy talked about the new Bewitched Night Owl Rex Begonia (seen on the left). It really caught my attention! It's available at Michler's and it might make a good addition to my houseplant collection.



KNOW OF ANY GORGEOUS GARDENS?

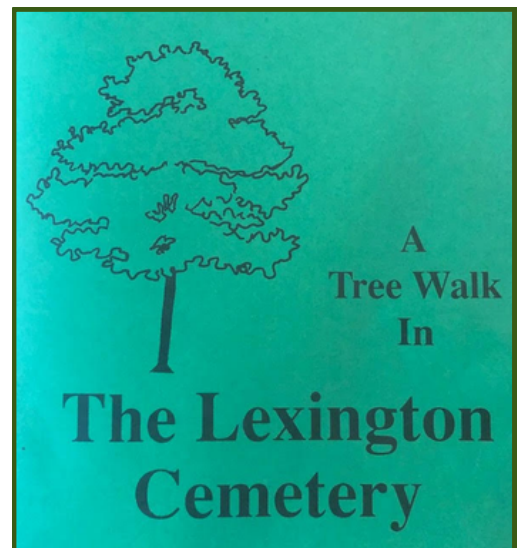
The Lexington Council Garden Clubs is looking for special gardens for their Open Gates of Bluegrass Living Garden Tour 2025. We know gardeners might feel a little reluctant to volunteer their own gardens, but maybe you are aware of some great, undiscovered gardens you could tell us about. We know they are out there!

Proceeds from this bi-annual tour go to scholarships, non-profits and wonderful beautification and educational projects in our community. Plus, think of all the joy you could help spread!

If you have a tip, contact Council member Jackie Wagoner – jackie.wagoner@yahoo.com

LEXINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

Thanks to Cheri Fouts who organized this fascinating tour of what is considered one of the most beautiful cemeteries in America. Horticulturist Miles Penn spent nearly two hours explaining what goes on behind the scenes to keep this a stunning landmark. There is fulltime crew to care for the plants and trees through every season and the cemetery has its own greenhouse where most of the plants are grown. There are over 200 species of trees and the Audubon Society has identified 179 species of birds within the cemetery. Each spring thousands of visitors come to enjoy the flowering crabapples, cherries and dogwoods, along with 25,000 tulips the crew plants each year.



JOE DIETZ BONSAI GARDEN

Oh, what a glorious garden we toured at Joe Dietz's house in June. First, there is the bonsai garden that overlooks a wonderland of hostas, hydrangeas, impatiens and shade trees. Inside, Joe has a bonsai studio where he designs the miniature trees, and his partner has a greenhouse with 500 orchids, more or less. There might be a kitchen in there somewhere! But who would have time to eat?

Joe took the time to explain the art and answer many questions. And don't say bonsai – It's BONE-SI, he informs us with a chuckle.

