



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener  
Fayette County

# NEWSLETTER

FAYETTE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S ASSOCIATION



## The Prez Sez...

BY ANN HENRY

Dear Master Gardeners,

This is my last Prez Says letter and I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone. Master gardeners are the best when it comes to working together to accomplish projects.

Work has been completed on the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation. The executive committee will be sending them to you the beginning of the year. We are going to ask everyone to read them and submit any questions. We will share answers to the questions. There will not be an opportunity for discussion at the annual meeting. That decision was made due to time constraints. Please watch for this information along with more detail after the first of the year.

Also, look for information about the annual meeting in the Newsletter, page 2 and in an email. It will be great seeing everyone. Until then, MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.



*Warm regards,  
Ann*

## Newsletter Committee:

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

### This Issue:

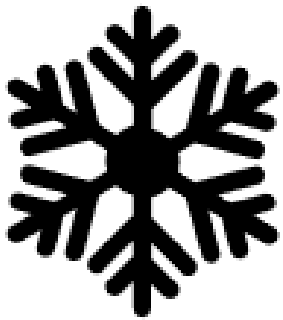
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"Under the pavement the dirt is dreaming of grass."  
Wendell Berry

# Fayette County Master Gardeners Association Annual Meeting

**JANUARY 28, 2023, 4PM**  
**EXTENSION OFFICE, 1140 HARRY SYKES WAY**

Join us for a festive annual meeting. We'll be sharing food and fun as well as conducting Association business. Significant others are welcome! Please RSVP by January 21 to Susan McDaniel at [suziemac01@aol.com](mailto:suziemac01@aol.com)



POTLUCK - Please bring a dish!

A - K Main Dish (Casserole, Pasta, etc.)

L - T Salad or Vegetable

T-Z Dessert or Bread



PLANT SWAP - bring any plants, seeds, equipment or books that you no longer need to share with your fellow gardeners!



Activities: Dues Collection (\$20, check or cash), Election of Officers, Bylaws Revision, Raffle



## GARDENING TRENDS BY PAM DORREL

Are you curious about gardening trends for the new year? If you start by searching the internet, you'll probably end up finding an article on a site like MarthaStewart.com. I dug a little deeper and discovered gardenmediagroup.com, a company specializing in public relations, product launches, social media and media marketing for gardening based businesses.



Garden Media Group “researches global consumer trends to see what’s happening from home design to fashion.” They consult with their media sources and garden experts around the world. Then they “read the tea leaves, peer into our crystal ball, and share what we see up and coming in gardening, landscape design and green living, so you can be in the know.” All the big media outlets, like Better Homes & Gardens and Martha Stewart Living, follow their reporting.

For 23 years, they’ve produced the Garden Media Trends Report, which is geared towards businesses in the gardening industry that sell to consumers. They claim to have correctly predicted the container gardening craze in 2003, the vegetable gardening surge in 2004, and the vertical gardening trend in 2009.

The 2024 report was released a few months ago. I wanted to just focus on the newest trends, but the report itself is pretty fascinating. It’s 38 pages long, but it reads like a PowerPoint presentation. It’s full of brightly colored graphics and not too many words, which makes it easy to digest. It gets right to the point, by calling 2024 the year of eco-optimism, and asserts that Gen Z will shape the future of the horticulture industry.

If you’re like me, you had to do a little more research to discover that Gen Z, or Zoomers as they’re starting to be called, were born between 1997 and 2012. In 2024 they’ll be 12 to 27 years old, and they already have a lot of opinions about nature, the environment, and how they want to interact with plant life.

The report is also interactive. If you download the PDF and scroll down to page 8, you can click on one of the seven choices to learn more about the seven trends for 2024. I was drawn to the neon red “Bugging Out” pages, which were all about trends related to insects. I clicked on a link that led me to Garden for Wildlife, which has a wealth of resources about planting native plants for pollinators.

The information in this report gets distilled down and diffused into the gardening products we’ll all buy in 2024 and beyond. If you’re wondering how effective this report is, remember it when you happen to see cyber-lime colored flowers, foliage, houseplants or gardening tools for sale soon.

You can access the Garden Media 2024 Trends Report here: <https://grow.gardenmediagroup.com/2024-garden-trends-report>. (You’ll need to share your email to obtain the report.)

You can access Garden for Wildlife here: <https://gardenforwildlife.com/>



## Master Gardener Program by Pam Dorrel

In 2023, the Extension Master Gardener Program celebrated 50 years of existence. The program began in 1973 at Washington State University when two extension agents saw an overwhelming increase in requests from Seattle area home gardeners for horticultural information. They created a class to teach the science behind gardening at the university level to a group of volunteers and then sent them out into the community to answer all the questions asked by urban gardeners. The initial idea was so popular that hundreds of people applied to be in the class, but only 150 were accepted.

This wonderful program spread across the country and is still making its way around the world. Today, there are over 85,000 Master Gardener volunteers throughout all 50 states. Programs also exist in Canada, Puerto Rico, South Korea, and most recently, the United Kingdom.

Kentucky Extension Master Gardeners was founded in the late 1980's by Dr. Mary Witt, University of Kentucky Professor and Consumer Horticulture specialist, according to the KEMG website. In the 1990's and 2000's, the program was coordinated by Kentucky Extension Specialist, Sharon Bale, and Dr. Richard "Rick" Durham has been directing the program since 2010. This year there were about 1,150 active Extension Master Gardeners in Kentucky. They contribute an average of 35,000 volunteer hours each year.

Also in 2023, and even more special for Kentucky Extension Master Gardeners is the release of the revised KEMG Program training manual, which was published by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

According to Rick Durham, "The KEMG Program training manual touches on all aspects of consumer horticulture and is the foundational tool for non-commercial gardening and landscaping topics. Previously, the training manual was assembled from numerous stand-alone publications, and it was only offered in a print version to the counties in Kentucky. Now, we offer it online for free and all in one single document — that significantly increases the availability of this information."

The manual has an updated look. The cover was redesigned from elements of the old one, but it has a fresher feel. The chapters have been rearranged for easier flow from one subject to the next. The chapter headings were cleaned up, and every chapter now starts with an 'In this chapter:' overview box.

I'm personally thrilled that the pages have been renumbered to make it one cohesive work throughout, instead of the previous manual that had some chapters numbered as if they were separate books, which sometimes confused me. The index is also better, so it's more useful as a reference tool when you need to quickly find the page to show your sister when she asks you why her compost pile caught fire.



The colorful cover of the new manual reflects the diversity of programming offered by the Master Gardener program.

The information in the manual is still the overwhelming wealth of knowledge you received when you took the class; it's just a little more organized. The most exciting part, though, is that the entire manual is available online for free, as one 336 page PDF. Download your copy here and spend the winter refreshing your knowledge of Kentucky gardening. The Kentucky Extension Master Gardener Program manual is available at: <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id1/id1.pdf>



In 2023, the Continuing Education program offered a wide variety of activities. We're always delighted to share photos and descriptions of MG activities in the Newsletter. To share photos or suggestions for articles, contact Susan Miller at [gourmetgoats@msn.com](mailto:gourmetgoats@msn.com)

A group of Master Gardeners toured Bernheim Forest on October 7 and visited with the Bernheim Giants. We had an excellent introduction to the use of native plants and the joys and challenges in maintaining the Forest.



## New Directory Planned!



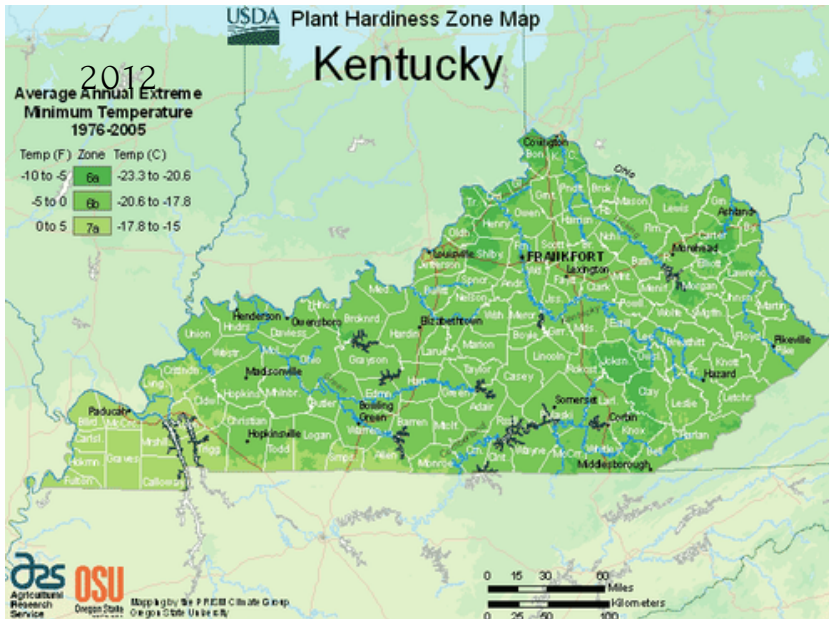
We will be taking photos of all members who attend the annual meeting and asking them to complete a form with their name, EMG status (active/emeritus, etc.) and any additional information they are willing to share in the directory, specifically, email address and phone number.

The information will be compiled into an electronic directory that can be regularly updated or as needed.

We hope the directory will provide helpful in building a sense of community among our members.

# USDA Unveils Updated Plant Hardiness Zone Map

by Pam Dorrel



In mid-November the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its latest version of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map. The new map was created by the USDA and Oregon State University, and contains even more accurate and detailed data than its last version, which was released in 2012. It's the gold standard used by nearly 80 million American gardeners and growers to determine which plants are most likely to thrive anywhere in the country.

The 2023 map incorporates new features and advances. It's GIS (Geographic Information System)-based and designed for online use. Viewers can examine plant hardiness zones in finer detail. The mapping system uses a sophisticated algorithm to interpolate low-temperature values between weather reporting stations. With the 2023 map, users can enter a ZIP Code to find a detailed view of that zone.

The map represents “average annual extreme minimum temperatures” across the United States and Puerto Rico. The annual extreme minimum temperature is the coldest night of the year, which can vary greatly from year to year depending on local weather patterns. For the 2023 map, data was taken from 13,412 weather stations (compared with 7,983 used for the 2012 map). This data was measured from 1991 to 2020, giving scientists a 30-year average of the lowest annual winter temperatures at each location.

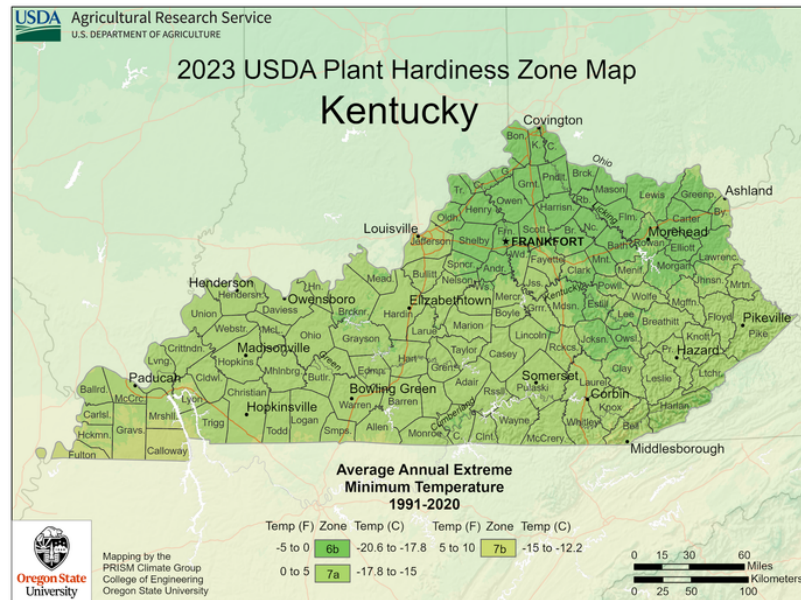
The map is divided into zones based on those temperatures, with each zone covering a span of ten degrees Fahrenheit, creating 13 zones across the United States. Each zone is divided into 5-degree Fahrenheit half-zones, designated as “A” and “B.”

When compared to the 2012 map, the 2023 version shows that half of the country shifted to the next warmer half zone, and the other half of the country remained in the same half zone. This shift means those areas warmed from 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit. Some parts of the country experienced warming in the range of 0-5 degrees Fahrenheit without moving to another half zone.

Some of these changes in zones are due to more sophisticated mapping methods and the use of data from more weather stations. Developers of this map caution that temperature updates to plant hardiness zones don't necessarily reflect global climate change because extreme minimum temperatures vary so greatly from year to year. Temperature updates to some zones aren't reliable indicators of global climate change, because climate change is based on trends in overall average temperatures recorded over much longer time periods.

Ultimately, however, the map seems to prove that the United States is about 2.5 degrees warmer. For gardeners, that means the possibility of growing new plants they wouldn't have tried before.

View and download national, regional or state maps from USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, 2023. Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture at: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>. While you're on the page, scroll down and check out the USDA's new “Tips for Growers” section.



**Fayette County Master Garden Association Board Meeting Minutes August 11, 2023****Present:** Ann Henry, Judy Worth, Kay Fisher, Graham Rowles, Susan Miller, Susan McDaniel**Newsletter:** Monday, Aug. 14, is deadline;

Augusta Hosmer's passing was brought up and her role in redesigning the Newsletter which led to discussion of new business including deaths, illnesses and listening tours; plus updates to handbooks.

part of the new design; Judy/Graham will do an article on Continuing education Susan McDaniel to do an article on how to join the Facebook group. A suggestion was made that we also include the link for reporting hours.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Kay bought a roll of stamps; needs approval. Spent \$63 under budget of \$75. Interest rates are going up. Audit of books needs to be done. Ann needs to get a team together to do it. Dues were received from 2 people. We are now at 69 members. CD rolled over; it's a 6-month. Our current Balance: \$17,270.44

Kay is doing the accounting for state master garden conference so money will be coming in and then going out.

Discussion about doing something individually for Augusta. Family requested donations be made to Live Like Roo in Rome, GA.

Discussion continued with clarification that the annual in memoriam donation of \$75 is for all master gardeners who have passed in that year. Board decided a newsletter article on Augusta will be written including the Live Like Roo information.

**CE Committee****Upcoming CE Offerings:****Aug. 24 – Cincinnati Zoo (6 hours)****Aug. 25 – Black Soil Hamlets tour****Sept. 12-13 – State MG Conference****Oct. 7 – tour of Bernheim forest****Oct. 17 – Nesting Boxes****Nov. 4 – Commissioned lecture****Nov. 18 Native Plants (6 hours)****Plus toolbox classes**

Graham reported they have spent a lot of time creating a framework for Continuing Education with next year's ready by this Christmas. To get credit, each CE opportunity has a contact person who will send out a form that has to be filled out and returned to the coordinator. They can explain it all and introduce it at the annual meeting in January, with a corresponding article in the newsletter.

There was discussion about getting the word out better about the online listing of hours and the technology committee. Judy has decided she won't be continuing on the CE committee after this year. Graham will look at the committee for another co-chair.

Continuing Education committee does not have time to do the handbook. All members of the committee have worked very hard. Philosophy is we don't have to do that much handholding or become 'the enforcers.' Jamie has been supportive and helpful to the CE committee. Jamie said he thinks the office will need to reach out to MG members about entering CE hours.

**By laws – next steps.**

We need to have a reading with our membership. At the annual meeting. Susan McD would be introducing the bylaws. Members need to have them 12 days before the meeting. Adding a caveat that "In order to have input, you need to respond before the meeting," was suggested. There was discussion of how to present the bylaws and how to mitigate 'issues'. A premeeting was suggested; suspended vote was suggested if there were challenges or holding a vote on the whole thing except any part that was under contention.

**Annual Meeting** – date set for Jan. 28., 2024, as long as we can get the room.

Annual Picnic - Oct. 8, 3-6PM

Fried Chicken and water provided. Bring your own drink. Alpha sides, salads, etc. will be mixed up from previous years. Drinks will be BYOB, including alcohol if they wish, though the drive home was brought up. Jamie can bring garbage bags and haul it away; Need someone to pick up the chicken and water; plates and utensils. Jamie thought there was plenty left over; someone needs to check. Ann bringing a couple coolers of ice; tables will be outside on porch. "Dress for the weather." Rain plan is that there is plenty of room up on the porch.

**Social Committee**

The Nominating Committee was tasked with coming up with social chair or co-chairs to manage the annual meeting, picnic and any social opportunities offered alongside continuing education events. It was mentioned that it has been shown that master gardener groups that work best are those that meet monthly. There was discussion around how many times a year, starting quarterly, etc., and varying times of meeting to be sure those who are still working can be included. Needs to have a gardening component of some kind.

**Next Meeting**– Friday, Nov. 10; 11 a.m., at Ann's, 3488 Rabbit's Foot Trail. Ann will send directions.

Topic: Listening meeting review and discussion for next steps; annual picnic; etc.