Meeting Reminder
July 20th   6:30pm
Jason Chambers of MidTn Hydroponics & Gardening will be speaking about starting, maintaining and using hydroponics at home.
Lane Agri-Park Community Center
315 John R. Rice Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN37129
615-898-7710

Agri-Park Demo Gardens

Autumn Shultz shared this terrific photo she took during the Discovery Center Secret Garden Tour on June 6. It really shows off the beauty at the Demo Gardens this month!

Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who helped out on this years tour. This was the first time the Demo Gardens were included. Our gardens may not be a “secret” but those who were here had a wonderful day introducing our projects and programs to the visitors.

Linda Lunday had an exhibit about the work she is doing in horticultural therapy. Autumn Shultz taught us how to UPCYCLE items we would normally throw away for use in the garden. Linda Lindquist demonstrated self watering containers.

Nancy Nelson, Judy McBrien, Sherrell Vick, Floyd Adams, Janet Whitmore, Susie Hawkins, Ken Smith & Jim Phillipson were also on hand to not only welcome visitors and answer questions, but also showing work in action as they planted, pruned & cleaned up. (If I forgot anyone, please forgive me—it got pretty hot that day!)

Thanks also to all the rest of our Master Gardeners who helped out with ticket sales at all the gardens on this years tour!
Join Jack Smith, CMG as he shares a variety of garden topics at the St. Clair Senior Center every second Monday at 10:00am.

These sessions are free and open to anyone with an interest in gardening. All ages are welcome!

Any Master Gardeners who would like to work with Jack by presenting with a topic or working with him to learn some tips on giving presentations is welcome to let him know.

Come join the lively discussions at 325 St. Clair St.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

What are “pass alongs”?
Well, to a gardener it’s a plant shared from one gardener to another. We seem to love sharing what has done well for us. This seems to be mostly a Southern tradition and the plants usually can’t be found in garden centers or catalogs. It’s a fine way of sharing heirloom plants that will always remind you of the person who gave it to you.

Most of the time, the plants have a story. You’ll hear tales like “My Granny grew this flower in every garden she even had. I don’t know the name, but I remember the sweet smell and every spring she’d cut a big bunch to bring in the house and make my Granddaddy sneeze. I save the seeds every year.”

Botanical names of “pass alongs” have often been lost, if indeed they were ever known. I have a habit of naming plants I’ve been gifted with after the donor. I have “Miss Hazels Hibiscus”, “Kays’ Iris” and “Grannies Peonies” (that have traveled thru two time zones, three states and at least five homes). These plants remind me of the kindness of those who are so willing to share their gardens bounty and their friendship. Plants shared this way are almost always accompanied by their story and how to take care of them. Sometimes if you are lucky, you also get invited for a glass of sweet tea!

According to tradition, you should never thank anyone for a pass along plant or it will not live and grow for you. Why not keep the tradition alive and share something from your garden with a new gardener, neighbor or friend?

Marilyn & Bruce Rogan and Mark Murphy (not pictured) helped install these great tower gardens at the Veterans Recovery Center last month. The gardening therapy program has been very well received by the participants.

Patty Davenport shared this photo from her garden. She says that making hypertufa bird baths is easy and fun. This is the only one the birds ever come to and use in her yard.
Do You Know When to Harvest Grapes...... Warren Anderson, CMG

Have you ever noticed the grape vines growing along the Gresham Lane side of Lane Agri-Park?

The vineyard was planted in 2003 with a variety known at ‘Cynthiana’ in Arkansas and ‘Norton’ in Virginia. The vines have been known under one name or the other as far back as the early 1800’s.

When to harvest?
Sight, touch, smell and taste will tell you when grapes are ready. They should be rich in color, crush easily, not be shriveled, plump, thickly juicy with a balance between sweet and tart. The best sign of the grapes ripeness is it’s sweetness. Taste test before you harvest since they will not ripen further once cut from the vine.

This video from University of Minnesota provides more information on harvesting grapes:
http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/crops/knowing-when-to-harvest-your-grapes/

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/grapes.html

What Should You Do When You See A Bee Swarm?
Local beekeepers say a swarm of bees is no sign for alarm. When left alone, the swarm usually poses no threat. However, experts say the bees themselves may be in need of some help.

If not caught, they will likely end up in some hollow tree and lost to the ill forces of nature. If captured, they will reside in a modern beehive, receive free protection and pay rent in the form of honey and pollination of our fruits and vegetables.

You’ve probably read news reports or science articles about the decline in honeybee populations. Scientists from around the world, including those at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, are avidly researching the health of our honeybees. While a swarm of bees may look scary, beekeepers say the bees are simply relocating, and they implore that no harm be done to these precious pollinators.

Swarming is a natural reproductive process where the queen takes about half of her family and finds another place to live. The swarm you see is simply waiting for their scouts or ‘bee realtors’ to find a house to rent. This process usually lasts just a few hours. The good news is that prior to swarming, the colony made preparations for producing a new queen to reside within and maintain the remaining family. If you see a swarm, call the Extension office at 615-898-7710 to find a beekeeper who will be able to come out and retrieve the bees at no cost to you. Or contact the Rutherford County Bee Keepers Association at Rutherford.beeclub@gmail.com (Source: UTIA Institute of Agriculture 04.24.15)
Help our association earn income just by shopping at Kroger.

Simply go to this website:  
Www.krogercommunityrewards.com

If you already have a Kroger account, sign in
If you don’t have a Kroger account, sign up!

Follow the simple instructions to select your community rewards partner. The number for the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County is 37167.

For every purchase you make, we will receive a donation from Kroger of 3%.

Don’t forget our other partner:
Just Love Coffee pays us a rebate whenever we purchase coffee from them!  justlovecoffee.com

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Thanks to Linda Lundy & Teresa Fly for taking on the very delightful job of being our good-will ambassadors!

“She had surgery last month and that’s why she hasn’t been at our last two meetings” “Didn’t you hear? He moved to another state” “Wasn’t it great that they became grandparents for the first time?”

When we hear comments like this, it makes us feel like we just aren’t paying enough attention to what is going on with the folks in our group but sometimes we just don’t know. The friendships and comradery in the RCMG Association often extend beyond working on projects together. So… The Sunshine Team has been formed to help recognize key events in the lives of our members. We will always respect your privacy, but would like to be able to send a card to recognize times in the lives of our members such as birthdays, special anniversaries, illness/hospital stays, loss of immediate family member, change address etc. Please let Linda or Teresa know or call the office at 615-898-7710 to leave a message if you know of a fellow Master Gardener that could use a “little bit of sunshine” or would like to let us know what’s going on in your lives.

The Scoop, June 2015   Page 4

Welcome SunShine Team!!

“The Scoop” is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the second week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail.

Please send articles, photos, and comments to Linda Lindquist, Editor: mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com

The deadline for articles, and other items to be included in the newsletter is the last Friday of the month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is $30 for a single or $40 for a couple at the same address. All memberships are valid January thru December and are pro-rated for new members only.

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Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension and Tennessee State University.

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