



# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



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**Be sure to Keep your Contact information Current!**

## President's Message

Our new printer for labels has arrived and is stored at Wayne's office. The new sidewalks at the UT Extension Building are finished and look good. The edges of some beds are in need of repair, and some plants will need attention, but, all in all, not many were damaged. The parking lot will be redone soon.

Preparations for the Fair are well underway. Our theme is "Back to the Farm". Mickie Loyd is doing the children's potting shed. Jan Tollett is chairing the rock painting. Vicky Draper is doing an exhibit with chickens (gourds).

Diana Lee has volunteered to do a front porch farm exhibit. Rose Wyatt-Collins and Gloria Vick will each do a farm fairy garden. We are trying to do an exhibit featuring a milking cow. Linda Anderson is overseeing the exhibits and is working on scarecrows and old farm tools and implements. If you have scarecrows or wish to make one, let her know. If you would like to work on any of these committees, please contact the chairman in charge. We can always use more scarecrows to set around and more fairy gardens. Sandi Koczwara is our general chairman so contact her if you need further information. We always need plants to set around and decorate with.

Hope you're having a good summer, and we'll see you at the Fair if not before.

Happy gardening,

**Evelyn Breyer,  
PCMG President**

Mickie Loyd supplied this article done by Steve Aitken. Good read.



### **Use These Gardening Excuses!**

A few years ago I clipped an editorial by Steve Aitken, [Fine Gardening](#) magazine. Take notes as these excuses might be some you may wish to use! Here is the article:

Years ago, while wandering in a garden in Maine, I remarked upon a gorgeous stand of lavender. I was surprised that it grew that far north and was under the impression it was finicky. The garden owner said that her lavender was trouble-free and asked me why I didn't grow it. "I just don't have the drainage," I replied to cover up my embarrassment over not growing such an easy, beautiful plant. Though not necessarily true, the answer was good because it left my companion with the impression that I knew something about lavenders and my garden.

But, what I actually learned that day was that a good gardening excuse has value. It can help you gloss over noticeable flaws in your design scheme and quickly turn attention somewhere else. Having a number of these on my property, I have already come up with several excuses to common problems. Use them as you see fit.

If, while in the presence of another, you spot a weed nestled in your border, exclaim, "Oh, look at that wildflower that has sown itself into my garden!" Then, expand on the obviously superior fertility of your soil while you usher your guest to another section of your garden.

A noticeably untamed area of your property can be dealt with in a few ways. "I'm establishing a meadow" works well, especially in reference to an unmowed lawn. You can also state, "I believe in using a lot of native plants." The adventurous might go with "I'm trying to reconnect with the natural spirit of this place."

If someone gives you a plant and you kill it, tell that person the deer ate it. If something is smaller than it should be, say that it is "a new dwarf cultivar," or in the case of discolored leaves, refer to it as a "variegated variety." And no plant in your garden is "dead," but several might be experiencing premature dormancy."

All these little white lies are tempting to use, but let's admit it: Nothing is as refreshing as a gardener admitting, "That's a weed" or "I killed it" or "I haven't had time to deal with that mess over there." Even the greatest of gardeners screws up from time to time. It's nothing to be ashamed of---it's just gardening.



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### **Classes at the Plateau Discovery Gardens:**

For more information on classes for the rest of the year - go to this address:  
[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SRumZBE\\_EIN9SC3uxOvSNysPqLLxz9sY](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SRumZBE_EIN9SC3uxOvSNysPqLLxz9sY)

These classes are a good way to get those hours. (Call Ellen at the Extension Office to register for this class 931-484-6743.)

Sat., July 13 **Fall Vegetable Gardening (Fred Mullen)** Fee: None Limit: 60 9-11:30 am Now is the time to prepare for a cool season vegetable garden with discussion on the best varieties and tips for successful growing

Mon., July 15 **Use Of Attractive Plants To Preserve Erosion Along Drainage** Fee: None Limit: 60 9-11 am **Areas and Other Waterways (Bill Morgan)** Appropriate landscaping for homeowners who have property at water edges-lakes, ponds, streams, rivers or wetlands-will be discussed.

Wed., July 17 **Hypertufa (Shalena Durkot)** Fee: TBD Limit: 12 9:30-11 am Join the fun in making your own hypertufa container. They are lightweight, easy to make, inexpensive, and blend naturally with the landscape. Materials and molds provided.

Thurs., July 18 **Food Preservation (Kelli Bottoms and Crystal Blankenship)** Fee: \$20 Minimum 6, Maximum 12 10-Noon Veggies and fruits will need to be harvested soon. Are you ready? Preserving your own fruits and vegetables is not only healthier and economically beneficial, the taste is so much better! Join others to hear the latest food preservation guidelines so you too are ready for incoming veggies!

Sat., July 20 **Bluebird House Explanation and Construction (Nancy Snope)** Fee: TBD Limit 10 10-Noon Bluebirds will not nest in just any birdhouse. The right birdhouse must not only provide good, safe shelter for a brooding adult and its nestlings, but it should also be the proper size to admit bluebirds without encouraging unwanted residents. All materials will be provided to build a bluebird house to take home that day!

Tues., July 23 **Repurposing With Angela: Old Window With Glass Bead Art (Angela Witzel)** Fee: TBD Limit 20 10-Noon Decorating with old windows is inexpensive as well environmentally friendly. They personalize your space with a vintage look that eagerly looks forward to the future.

Sat., July 27 **Cultivation and Propagation of Bearded Iris (Bob Lauf)** Fee: None Limit: 60 1-2:30 pm Every aspect of bearded iris culture will be discussed, including soil, light, water, feeding, pest and disease prevention, re-blooming varieties, and propagation (when and how to divide and replant). A few other iris types will be briefly discussed as well. (Come prepared! Iris will be available for purchase following class.)



The next meeting will be at the First Presbyterian Church, **July 15, 2019 at 6:00PM**, or bring a dish to share at 5:30. We will eat at 5:30. Our business meeting will start promptly at 6. We will then walk down the street to Vicky Draper's house to watch Scott Winningham, a certified arborist, show us how to trim a tree.



#### Meet the Master Gardener Questionnaire

1. Where were you born and where have you lived before moving to Cookeville?

**I was born in Rockford, Illinois. My family moved to San Diego when I was 6 months old. I also lived in Eugene, Oregon and a few places in Texas before moving here in 1973.**

2. If you moved here from somewhere else, how or why did you choose Cookeville?

**Jobs brought us here.**

3. How did you become interested in gardening? Did any one person inspire you?

**The first person to inspire me with gardening was my Dad. He was amazing with flowers and also vegetables. I worked at a little plant shop back in the late 70's and most of the 80's called Plum Creek Plants and Crafts. Marty Kissane was the owner and I also learned so much from him.**

4. What year did you become a Master Gardener?

**I started the Master Gardener program in January of this year.**

5. Do you have a special area of gardening interest? (ie: vegetables, wildflowers, flowers, etc)

**Special areas of interest for me are flowers, especially pollinators. I also really enjoy house plants. Some of my favorites are Bromeliads, Succulents, Airplants and I have a twenty-one year old Jade Plant!**

6. Do you have a favorite flower(s) or vegetable(s) and why?

**Some of my favorite garden flowers are Marigolds, Cone flowers, Zennias, Lantana, and Petunias to name a few. I love to grow Tomatoes. They are one of my very favorite foods. I do a lot of container planting. It is nice for a smaller area and I am always amazed at what comes back the next year. Some of my pots have been here for twenty years.**

7. Do you have any gardening projects at present or in the works? What?

**I have added a second raised bed this year and I'm enjoying it a lot. In the fall I plan to plant some more Crepe Myrtles.**

8. What do you like the most about gardening? The least?

**My favorite part of gardening is watching things mature, bloom and develop the food. I guess my least favorite part is the weeding.**

9. Have you had any gardening mistakes you would like to share? Any successes?

**A gardening mistake I made a few years ago was having a raised bed that was much too shallow. I have changed that and now things are doing really well. Also it makes such a difference when really good dirt is used rather it is in a bed or in a potted plant. My favorite place for soil is Growers Solution.**

10. When you aren't gardening, what other hobbies or interests keep you out of trouble?

**My other hobbies are Rug Hooking, Knitting, Crocheting, music, animals, and of course my two rescue Terriers.**

10. Any words of wisdom for your fellow Master Gardeners?

**My words of wisdom are, think before you use any kind of pesticide. We need our bees, birds, insects and other pollinators to survive and they are really struggling.**

11. What is something we probably do not know about you? (Example: I bungee jumped for my 40th birthday. Or, I hold the hot dog eating championship for Putnam County. Or, I have 14 grandchildren and one on the way).

**A thing you probably don't know about me is that I have played a Zydeco Rub Board for the past twenty years in bands, on stage and even at church.**

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**The Extension office gardens. The sidewalk is finished. The beds are looking good.**





MASTER GARDENER  
**UT**EXTENSION  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
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