



Newsletter, December 2021

***CHRISTMAS  
IS  
COMING!***

*Join us for  
The Maury County Master  
Gardeners' Christmas Party  
December 7, 2021*

*6:00 pm*

*The Senior Citizen's Center*

*Feel free to bring your  
guest(s). Just remember to  
bring extra food and extra  
gift(s) if you want your  
guest(s) to participate in  
the potluck and gift exchange.*

*See full details on page 2*

***Congratulations  
MCMG Officers  
for 2022 - 2023***

President - Kathie Wilson

Vice President - Sue Nagel

Vice President - Kelly Raimondo

Secretary - April Ray

Treasurers - Bruce & Cay McShurley

Immediate Past President - George Patton

***ATTENTION  
ALL MASTER GARDENERS***

December 1 is the target date for reporting your annual Volunteer and Education Hours online. Here is the nifty website: <https://temg.tennessee.edu/>

If you need help inputting your hours into the online reporting system, please reply to April Ray at [socaldiva@hotmail.com](mailto:socaldiva@hotmail.com) and she will help get you squared away.

***Master Gardener Class  
Begins Jan 31, 2022***

- Classes Scheduled Monday  
and Thursday Nights*
- Location: TBA*
- Classes meet in person*



**Maury County Master Gardeners' Christmas Party**  
**Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.**  
**Maury County Senior Citizens Center**

**Here comes a party with options and everybody loves options!**

**Dinner is a potluck – and there's an option!**

- You can choose to participate in the potluck or not
- If you would rather not participate, please eat at home or bring your personal food
- If you want to eat at the potluck, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.  
**Ham and a Main Dish Casserole provided.**
- If you don't bring a dish, kindly do not eat at the potluck

**Traditional gift exchange – with options!**

- Bring a traditional garden gift OR a bottle of wine (suggested price for either about \$15) OR bring nothing at all – no one will judge
- In a fun exchange, if you bring a gift, you will receive the same category of gift (garden or wine)
- To save you time and effort, bring any gift unwrapped
- Remember a "garden gift" can be a hand tool, local honey, preserves, soap – be imaginative
- Wine must arrive unopened and leave unopened

**Traditional charitable gifts – with options!**

- Please also bring a gift for a local charity
- Options are new socks, winter gloves or non-perishable food
- If you prefer, you need not bring a charitable gift

**Holiday games – with options!**

- We'll play a game, maybe two
- Anyone not into games, can make a craft with Cay McShurley  
(Table, chairs, and supplies provided)

We hope everyone will want to come and have fun! If you have questions, please contact party coordinators Kelly Raimondo 985-320-0941 or Kathie Wilson 931-215-9466.





## Welcome December

With the shorter days upon us, the lighted Christmas tree is a welcome sight for many.

In early days, before electricity, folks would cut an evergreen. They would set the tree up in the parlor and hang candles on it. In the evening, the family would gather around. The head of the household would light the candles. The family would gaze at the beautiful lit tree for a few minutes then blow the candles out. The candles were a reminder of the "Light of The World", Jesus. The promise of Hope.

In 1882 Edward Johnson, a friend of Thomas Edison introduced the first electric lights. There were eight bulky, pear shaped bulbs on one single wire. The lights were very expensive and many Americans did not trust electricity.

President Grover Cleveland helped make lights popular. In 1895 he used them to light a tree at the White House.

In the 1920's General Electric had made the lights more accessible and cheaper.

I have to say the lights are one of my favorite things about Christmas. I can't imagine Christmas without them.

As I gaze at my tree and take in the light displays, I am reminded of Christmases past, the families that have gathered, the memories of those that are no longer with us, and the excitement of being together. There are memories of wonder, anticipation, and hope for the days ahead.

My wish for each of you is that you experience Joy, Wonder, Hope and Peace this holiday season.



Cay

**Welcome** to Sherry White Keech from Williamson County Master Gardeners who has transferred to Maury County.



## Congratulations Judi Heyning!

At the November meeting Judi Heyning was presented her 10 Year Service Badge for her membership and work in the Maury County Master Gardeners. Thank you Judi for your faithful service!

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Report- November 2021

Balance on November 1st- \$6,161.67

Income- \$0.00

Expenses- \$146.54

Balance on November 30th- \$6,015.13



If you have any suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to:

Sue Nagel, [Shelby6866@yahoo.com](mailto:Shelby6866@yahoo.com) (307)-640-0004

George Patton, [gpatton703@gmail.com](mailto:gpatton703@gmail.com) (703) 371-9798

# “Sanitation in Your Garden”

by Roger Clark

Wouldn't you like a year where you did not have problems with plants dying. I think everyone would answer yes to that. How much effort do you make in the off season to make this happen?

I have recently been to several in-services relating to both Animal Science and Plant Science. These sessions have often talked about identifying disease and treating diseases. These are all good things to learn and know how to do, but an old adage that my grandmother would tell me still rings true, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” I never really got why this was important as a young child but now I seem to understand it more as I answer more horticulture calls. The best way for you to fight disease in your garden is never let them get there in the first place. Sanitation will help prevent diseases and help you have healthy plants.

**Failing to plan** is planning to fail, so what is your off season plan for your garden? Is it to just simply let the weeds of summer take over the garden because you are so frustrated with lack of success this year. OR did you decide to go out after all crops were done and destroy your weeds and plants. If so, then sow in a cover crop to reduce weed pressure, maintain that topsoil that you work so hard for, and even add nitrogen back to the garden (with a legume cover crop). Now those are the two ends of the spectrum but something for you to think about.

**Bringing new plants to your garden** is a place where sanitation is important. What is your plan for not bringing in disease through these new plants that grew somewhere else? I know lots of Maury County Master Gardeners like to go to a big box store and save the dying plants that are in the clearance section of the garden center. I think this is a very fine practice to do but you need to proceed with caution and have a little bit of a plan. What is there to say that you do not bring insects or diseases onto your property with these plants, three things you can do. 1.) look at the plant and see why they are dying is it because they are not being watered well or is it infested with an insect or a disease. 2.) Quarantine your new plants separate from others when you bring them home. 3.) Make sure to wash your hands and shoes after you go visit a garden center. There is nothing saying that you cannot transmit a disease from the garden center to your house via dirt in your shoes or on your hands.

So now I am telling you how to clean things but how should you clean your shoes and hands. Very simple just put some dish soap and water for your hands and a brush with soap and water for your shoes. Tools and equipment can be washed with a bleach water mix of like 10:1 mix (especially pruners).

Resources: <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/home-landscape/fall-landscaping/sanitizing-garden.aspx>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2020/03/applying-pandemic-lessons-sanitation-can-help-your-garden-too>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/sanitation-is-critical-to-prevent-plant-diseases-part-2-field-sanitation>

**Scouting** is also an important part of preventing disease. So here I am giving you an excuse to spend more time looking at all the plants and in your garden. When your significant other asks why you spend so much time in your garden just simply say that Roger said “I need to go and scout for problems in the garden.” Get out there and look at plants and what is around them, under the leaves, stems, soil conditions, recent rainfall, and compare plants and condition to one another. Notice small changes and maybe even make a note in journal as to what you notice with a date so you can track problems. Lastly do not be afraid to contact the extension office when you notice issues. Our job is to help you be successful in your horticulture endeavor.

**Rotation** can be a great addition keeping issues out of your garden when thinking of vegetable gardens. I could write a whole article about this and might in the future. Simply put if you want to rotate your garden you should not grow plants from the same family in the same spot year after year. For ex. Tomatoes and potatoes should not be planted one behind the other because they are from the same family and are effected by some of the same insects and diseases. Here are a few good resources for you to look at.

<https://extension.wsu.edu/snohomish/croprotation/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/rotate-crops-your-small-garden>

So, we have done all these things to prevent diseases in our gardens and landscaping but guess what. Sometimes the Dragon still wins. Weeds, diseases and insects will take over your garden. This doesn't mean that you are a bad gardener or should quit and never garden again. All this means is that you have an opportunity to learn and do even better next year. Stay positive learn from mistakes or misfortune. All you can do is your best.



No matter how hard you work,  
No matter how right you are,  
Sometimes the dragon wins.

Do you have a horticulture question or suggestions for future articles? Send those inquiries to Roger Clark at [rogwclar@utk.edu](mailto:rogwclar@utk.edu) or 931-375-5301



## Learning about the Tennessee Fruit and Vegetable Trials

At MCMG November Meeting Associate Professor and Residential and Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Natalie R. Bumgarner, Ph.D., shared about the programs and new insights into the plants that produce well in Tennessee. Wonderful information and great tips! *Thanks Natalie!*



<https://maurycountymastergardeners.org>  
[info@maurycountymastergardeners.org](mailto:info@maurycountymastergardeners.org)  
 maury county master gardeners

## Plan Your Calendar

### December

*December 7* **Maury County Master Gardeners Party**, 6 pm Senior Citizen's Center; 1020 Maury County Park Dr; Columbia, TN

### January

*January 4* **Maury County Master Gardeners Meeting**, 6 pm Senior Citizen's Center; 1020 Maury County Park Dr; Columbia, TN

### February

*February 1* **Maury County Master Gardeners Meeting**, 6 pm Senior Citizen's Center; 1020 Maury County Park Dr; Columbia, TN

### March

*March 1* **Maury County Master Gardeners Meeting**, 6 pm Senior Citizen's Center; 1020 Maury County Park Dr; Columbia, TN

*March 1* Western Region Conference in Clarksville, TN- hosted by Montgomery County Master Gardeners

### April

*April 5* **Maury County Master Gardeners Meeting**, 6 pm Senior Citizen's Center; 1020 Maury County Park Dr; Columbia, TN

### May

*May 3* NO MCMG MEETING  
*May 6* Tentative set up for MCMG Plant Sale  
*May 7* Tentative **Maury Master Gardener Plant Sale, Baker Bldg, Maury Co Park, 8:00 am-12:00 noon**

### June - July

*June-July* NO REGULAR MCMG MEETING  
**Meet 'n Greet TBA**  
*June 9-11* State Conference in Blountville, TN - hosted by Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners