



**NEWSLETTER - March 2020**

*Need a break from the raindrops?  
Want a little levity for your gardening life?*



**MCMG present**  
**Cindy Shapton**  
**a.k.a The Cracked Pot Gardener**  
**“Companion Planting in the Kitchen Garden”**

Ever notice that you get along with certain people or neighbors better than others? Anne of Green Gables would call it a kindred spirit; others might define it as compatibility. It is the same phenomenon in the plant community, certain plants just seem to get along better and benefit or complement each other. In the gardening realm this is called “companion planting”.

Join Cindy as she talks about the benefit of herbs in plant neighborhoods to help keep the garden and gardener healthy. In an age where we are concerned about food being grown without pesticides, these companion planting practices are being re-evaluated and put to use once again.

**About Cindy...** Cindy Shapton is a writer, speaker, herbalist, floral designer, and farmer. When she is not speaking and writing, she works growing herbs and flowers on her farm, Fernvale Herb and Flower Farm, near Franklin, TN. Cindy sells herbs and cut flowers by appointment and arranges flowers for weddings and events. She also teaches classes on growing food, herbs, arranging flowers, making remedies and foraging for native food and medicine on her farm.

Known as The Cracked Pot Gardener; the title of a column Cindy wrote for the Williamson Herald. Cindy writes articles for many magazines and is a regular contributor for State-by-State Gardening.

She is the former owner of Hyssop Hill Herb Farm in Franklin, TN and past president of the Williamson County Master Gardeners.

Cindy is the author of “The Cracked Pot Herb Book” – Simple Ways to Incorporate Herbs into Everyday Life. Available on her website [www.cindyshapton.com](http://www.cindyshapton.com)

Like her [f](#) Page, and follow her on [Instagram](#) “The Cracked Pot Gardener” for all the latest dirt.

**Here are the meeting details:**

**6:00 pm Pot Luck**

**6:30 pm Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm Speaker Cindy Shapton**

**Maury County Sr Citizens Center**  
**1020 Maury County Park Dr.**  
**Columbia, TN**

**Registration is HERE for the 2020 TEMG State Conference**

**June 11,12, and 13**

**From herbs to ginseng to fishing and from heirloom fruit and vegetables to farm to table dinners, our MGs hosts from Northeast TN are making sure there will absolutely be something for everyone!!**

**[Schedule details HERE!](#)**

**[Paper Registration Form Link](#)**

**[Online Registration Link](#)**



## EARN CEU's & SERVICE HOURS

- Attending *"Growing Tomatoes - Info and Tips"* with Mark Murphy, at MCMG February Meeting earned 1.25 CEU hours.
- Cindy Sharpton, the Cracked Pot Gardener speaks on *"Companion Planting in the Kitchen Garden"* at MCMG Meeting March 10, 2020
- Already a certified Master Gardener or intern? Attend a Master Gardener Class with the trainees. Your choice. - March kicks off this Monday with Carol Reese teaching on Woody Ornamentals. See page 5 for more details.



## A LITTLE SUNSHINE

I don't know about y'all but I'm looking forward to brighter days.

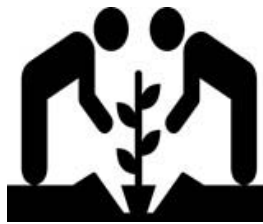
On those dreary days I am reminded that although I can't see it, the sun is still there waiting for its time to shine. As we anxiously await to get out there and dig in the dirt, I thought I would share this;

*Wherever you go, no matter the weather, always bring your own Sunshine* 🌻🌻🌻 (Pinterest)

There are several members that we haven't seen for awhile. Please know that you are missed and we hope to see you soon.

Cat  
(Cay McShurley)

Please contact the Sunshine Chairperson, Cay McShurley at [bcmcshurley@yahoo.com](mailto:bcmcshurley@yahoo.com) or call or text 931-446-1027, to inform her when you or another club member could use a ray of sunshine.



## SERVICE PROJECT CORNER

Senior Center:

(Judi, point of contact)  
14 April and 13 October

Clean-up – 4 to 6 pm

(Gail, point of contact)  
14 April and 13 October

Seed Packaging – 4 to 6 pm

(Sue, point of contact) Rippavilla Workforce Gardening,  
Dates TBD

Other ideas and nominations:

UT Extension – Blueberry Bush Trials more details TBD

If you have nominations for service projects please contact:

Judi Heyning, [jheyning@aol.com](mailto:jheyning@aol.com), 931-489-6029

Susan Nagel, [susan.nagel2@va.gov](mailto:susan.nagel2@va.gov), 307-640-0004



Sign up with Melanie Edwards

[medwards@ADSSecurity.com](mailto:medwards@ADSSecurity.com) to volunteer at the Maury County Home and Garden Show, March 13 and 14.

These count as annual service hours. Friday, March 13, 2-7; Saturday, March 14, 8-2 (you may volunteer for any portion therein)

## Master Gardener In-Depth Video-conference Series

*Fridays in March at 10 cst*

*March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th*

This 4 part interactive series will feature presentations by UT Extension personnel, discussion of FAQs along with providing useful resources for you to better understand these topics and educate the public through the MG program. We are going to focus on current topics like herbicides, natives, and pollinators.

**Registration is Required** for this series - [Click to fill out this short online FORM](#)



SMALL FRUITS DAY

# BLUEBERRIES & BRAMBLES

March 12th, 2020 from 9 am until 2 pm  
Come learn from UT Horticulture Specialists  
Dr. Natalie Bumgarner and Carol Reese

**\*Some of the training will be outside if  
weather permits\***

**\$10 registration fee, Includes lunch**

To register, please contact the Extension office at  
615-898-7710 or email Agent Rachel Painter at  
[reather@utk.edu](mailto:reather@utk.edu)

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STATE UNIVERSITY  
Cooperative Extension

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# PLANT SALE

Saturday  
May 9, 2020  
8 am - Noon

## The Baker Building at The Fair Grounds

1018 Maury County Park Drive in Columbia, TN

**MAKE YOUR OWN  
FLOWER  
ARRANGEMENT**  
(or made for you)  
Starting at \$2

**MAKE A HYPERTUFA  
CONTAINER**  
Pre-Registration Required  
shelby6866@yahoo.com  
Only \$15

**KIDS ACTIVITY**  
Free

**VENDORS**



**GREAT PRICES!**

**Cash Only**



<https://maurycountymastergardeners.org>

 **maury county master gardeners**

**CALL 571-330-4046 or 931-446-0610**

Sponsored by



MAURY COUNTY PEOPLE, PARKS & NATURE  
**PARKS & RECREATION**



Please bring in any extra plastic plant pots you may have to our next monthly meeting, for others to use to pot up plants for the plant sale.



calling for  
**Vendors**

**Looking for Vendors to set up booths at the Plant Sale this year. Booth cost is \$25. If you**

**know of anyone who would be interested, have them contact:**

[info@maurycountymastergardeners.org](mailto:info@maurycountymastergardeners.org)



If you'd like to be on the Garden tour this year, let George know: [george@maurycountymastergardeners.org](mailto:george@maurycountymastergardeners.org)



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

## 2020 Maury County Master Gardener Class Schedule

4	March 2 (M)	Woody Ornamentals	Ms. Carol Reese, UT Horticultural Specialist, Jackson, TN
5	March 5 (Th)	Fruits and Nuts	Dr. David Lockwood, UT Professor, Plant Sciences
6	March 9 (M)	Turfgrass/Home Lawns	Mitchell Mote, UT Extension – Rutherford County
7	March 12 (Th)	Basic Botany	Wendel Smith, UT Extension – Lawrence County
8	March 16 (M)	Bees/Insects	David Cook, UT Extension – Davidson County
9	March 19 (Th)	Herbaceous Ornamentals	Dr. Alan Windham, UTIA, Nashville, TN
10	March 23 (M)	Plant Diseases/Pesticides	Dr. Natalie Bumgarner – TN Master Gardener Coordinator, University of Tennessee
11	March 26 (Th)	Vegetable Gardens	Calvin Bryant, UT Extension – Lawrence County
12	March 30 (M)	Special Program/Graduation	Roger Clark, UT Extension, Maury County

- All Classes (1 thru 11) will be held in the Bethel Room at the Maury Co. Extension Office, 10 Public Sq., Columbia, TN
- Meeting 12 will be at the Middle TN Research and Education Center in Spring Hill.

## Attention all Master Gardeners

Put your mentoring hat on. Your Master Gardeners organization is looking for enthusiastic members who will lend a hand to the next crop of Interns. With your help, they can become Master Gardeners, too. Your help is important. There is a huge rate of attrition between finishing the class and certifying as a Master Gardener. Please volunteer to become a mentor as of March 26, the last class meeting of the current training. You don't have to be present at that class. Your Intern will receive your contact information. We will email or text your Intern's information to you. You'll meet at graduation.

We need 14 volunteer mentors! If 14 Master Gardeners don't volunteer, Kelly and Kathie threaten to have George name the rest. Oh, please don't let that happen.

We'll do our best to assign mentors to Interns who live relatively close to them. That's not always possible, but we'll try. That way, it will be convenient to offer to stop by their gardens to see what you might be helpful with. Or offer to pick up your Intern for events. The "job" is really easy, especially for outgoing, friendly people. As a reminder, we'll share the club's mentoring guidelines:

- \* Learn the name of the Intern and other Interns as soon as possible. Encourage the wearing of name badges.
- \* Wear your name badge to all Master Gardeners' events.
- \* Encourage Interns to attend meetings by calling, texting or emailing them ahead of time, and then sit with them.
- \* Greet Interns by name and introduce them to Master Gardeners at meetings and other events.
- \* Ask Interns if they have done volunteer service and, if needed, help them fill out the volunteer service record.
- \* Be able to explain the difference between volunteer hours and CEUs.
- \* Encourage Interns to participate in projects with you. When they come, make a special effort to welcome and include them in what you are doing.

Just think about the first time you walked into a Master Gardener meeting and didn't know anyone. How helpful a "buddy" would have been then! If someone helped you fit in, great. It's your turn to pay it forward. If nobody helped, you made it on your own and now you're an active member, you deserve extra credit. Perhaps, you have even more reason to help the next generation of Master Gardeners.

To volunteer, speak to Kelly or Kathie at the March meeting or send an email to Kelly Raimondo [kraimondo@att.net](mailto:kraimondo@att.net) or Kathie Wilson [knf@southportforge.com](mailto:knf@southportforge.com)

## Thanks to

**Mark Murphy**,  
owner of Bottle Hollow Farm  
near Shelbyville, for sharing  
"Information and Tips for  
Growing Tomatoes" at our  
February meeting.

Here is a link to his  
.pdf presentation,  
available on our Master  
Gardener website: [https://  
maurycountymastergardeners.  
org/test/TomatoTipsMM2020](https://maurycountymastergardeners.org/test/TomatoTipsMM2020).



**Learning, sharing, food and fun-  
It happens at MCMG!**



## The Old Farmer Says...

*This month...*

- Be on the lookout for vole damage.
- It is a good time to add lungwort and Lenten rose to your shade garden.
- When night temps get above 40 feed your pansies.
- Rid landscape of winter weeds
- Broccoli, cabbage, brussel sprouts, lettuce, chard, onions and potatoes should be planted.
- Tie canes but do not trim climbing roses yet.
- It's an ideal time to cut back Knock Out roses, shrub roses, hydrangea, liriopse, hardy fern, barrenwort, summer flowering spirea, beautyberry, nandina, overgrown hollies, ornamental grasses.
- Limb up trees and crapemyrtles.
- Check grafted plants and remove all growth below the graft'
- Drastically prune overgrown hollies.