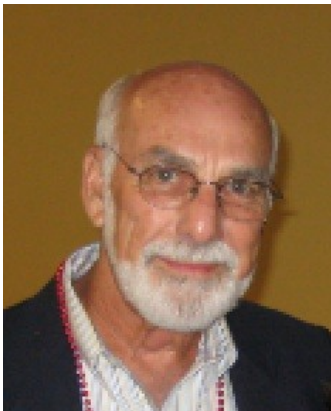




Tipton County Master Gardener's **Garden Gazette**

From our President



This is the first of May and the heavy rains over the last two weeks has us too wet to think about anything outside. Hopefully, the old saying "Rain on the first day of the month, means rain for 15 days that month." Maybe this month will prove that wrong.

I was amazed at the effort put into the Lawn and Garden Expo 2011 by the master gardeners and interns. The success of it proves that hard work pays off.

I applaud Linda Carter and all her committees and workers that put their whole heart into this endeavor. I am pleased with the number of individuals that helped set up and tear down on Friday and Saturday. My sincere appreciation to all of you.

Hope to all of you on Thursday night, May 5, at 6:00 p.m. for our regular meeting.

Vernon Pairmore
President

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To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds, and watch their renewal of life — this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do. *Charles Dudley Warner*

Extension Highlights

Trees Damaged by Storms Need Attention

When storm damage trees, safety is the first thing to consider. All loose branches should be removed as soon as possible to eliminate the chance of injury or damage if they fall. Decide if the tree is good enough to save. When the main trunk has split, the tree will probably not survive. Broken branches should be pruned back. Don't cut flush to the trunk; make the cut at the collar of the swelling where the limbs attach to the trunk. Cuts made into the collar may not heal well and may result in more trunk decay. Topping or cutting all main branches back to stubs is not recommended. Normally, new branches will grow from the stubs, and since they are not firmly attached, they are more

likely to break in a storm.

Large limbs should be taken off in steps. Taking them off in one cut can result in breakage before the cut is finished, which can strip bark from the tree.

Here are the steps in removing large limbs from a tree.

First make a cut about 15 or 20 inches from the trunk. Start from the bottom and cut one-third of the way up through the limb.

The second cut should be made from the top down but start 2 to 3 inches farther away from the trunk than the first cut and remove the entire branch.

The third cut removes the stub that is left; this cut is made at the branch collar. It is usually best to leave large tree limbs to a professional. Prevent damage by pro-

tecting your trees.

Inspect them several times each year. Check for dead and diseased limbs.

Always plant the right tree in the right place. For example, don't plant a tree that will grow to be too large under power lines or too close to your house.

Water deeply during dry periods; slowly apply 1 to 2 inches of water per week.

Booker T. Leigh
Tipton County
Extension Director

May Gardening Tips

- Plant gladioli bulbs in late May.
- Set out marigold, petunia, ageratum and fibrous begonia transplants. All are good border plants.
- To grow annuals in containers on the patio, use a light weight soil mixture. Keep the plants well-watered, because the soil dries out fast. Apply a water soluble fertilizer according to package directions every two weeks.
- Watering roses with soaker hoses or drip irrigation will reduce the spread of black spot disease.
- Plant ground covers under shade trees that do not allow enough sunlight to grow grass. Vinca minor or English ivy are ground cover plants that grow well in shade.
- Mulch around newly planted trees and shrubs. This practice reduces weeds, controls fluctuations in soil temperature, retains moisture, prevents damage from lawn mowers and looks attractive.

When you visit botanical gardens and arboretums, take your camera and note pad with you. Plan now for changes you will make in your landscape.

(Continued on page 5)

Plant of the Month — Helleborus



LOVES SHADE! DROUGHT TOLERANT! DEER RESISTANT!

BLOOMS FEBRUARY/MARCH! EVERGREEN! SELF-SOWING!

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT HELLEBORES?

Helleborus orientalis (Lenten Rose) is an evergreen perennial that delights in full to part shade. Grown from seed, it can take up to three years to flower. The varied shades of greenish-white to white to purple are well worth the wait when they appear among the earliest daffodils. Bell-shaped, 2" flowers hang face down from 8" stalks and are especially lovely planted on a hillside and viewed from below.

The nodding flowers remain for weeks. After dropping their blooms, their large, medium green, deeply lobed leaves remain crisp and cooling throughout our long, hot summers and attractive throughout the winter, when much is brown and dreary. The leaves can be cut back in late winter or left in place where they will be covered with the next year's leaves. Self-sown seedlings can be transplanted as soon as the ground can be worked. They are tolerant of most soils, but as with almost everything, a well-drained, slightly acidic loam will please them best.

Hellebores are critter resistant – deer, possum, chipmunks, rabbits and squirrels have taken nary a nibble in the 15 years I've had them in my gardens. (Had both Hellebores and critters.) They have required no

supplemental water in that time, through some of the deepest droughts North Georgia has experienced, remaining upright and appealing when everything else has drooped, at best, or died. If there are any negatives to be mentioned, they are lack of tolerance to traffic and lack of fragrance.

Recent breeding has given us many hybrids – double and peony-form flowers and an extended color range including yellows, blues and very nearly black. There are many other species – *H. niger* and *H. foetidus*, to name two – each with outstanding characteristics.

Want more info? Visit

www.hellebores.org

<http://grahamrice.com/hellebore/species/niger/index.html>

<http://www.floridata.com/ref/h/hellebor.cfm>

<http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/plant.asp?code=D100>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellebore>

Sanctioned Projects

TITLE	LOCATIONS	TIME	DATE	PROJECT MANAGER	CONTACT INFO
Covington	Various Locations			Sherl Rose	earthguardian56@aol.com
Museum	TC Museum			Sherl Rose Lynda Carter	earthguardian56@aol.com bigorange63@aol.com
Ext Office Assistant	UT Ext Office			Booker T Leigh	bleigh1@utk.edu

Master Gardener May Birthdays.



April Garden Tips (continued from page 2)

*Plan a landscaping project on paper first. Do not over plant. Be sure you know the mature size of each plant and allow for growth.

*Lawns maintained at the correct height are less likely to have disease and weed infestation. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue should be mowed at two or three inches in height. Mow frequently, removing no more than one third of the blade at each cutting.

*Cabbage loopers and imported cabbage worms are green worms. They leave large holes in the leaves of plants in the cabbage family. For control, caterpillars can be picked off by hand or sprayed with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), a natural, non-toxic preparation available by various trade names.


*Newly transplanted vegetable plants should be protected from cutworms with collars. Cut strips of cardboard two inches wide by eight inches long, staple them into circles and place them around the plants. Press the collar about one inch into the soil. These collars will fence out the cutworms and protect the stems of the vegetable plants.

*Stay out of the garden when the vegetable plant leaves are wet. Walking through a wet garden spreads disease from one plant to another.

* Four or five layers of newspaper will serve as an effective mulch in the garden. Cover it with compost or straw to prevent it from blowing away.

*Put tools away at the end of the day. Clean them and hang them up so they are ready to use and easy to find when you need them.

*To better evaluate your gardening successes, keep weather records along with garden records. The most important items to report are daily minimum and maximum temperatures, precipitation, cloud cover and frost occurrences.



Our notion of what makes a paradise always returns to the image of a beautiful and fruitful garden. *Jeff Cox*

Gardening is the best therapy. C. Z. Guest

All gardeners know better than other gardeners. *Chinese Proverb*

Heirloom Tomato and Goat Cheese Tart



8 servings Cool: 1 hour
Bake: 15 minutes
Stand: 1 hour
Prep: 20 minutes

Ingredients

1 17.3-ounce package frozen puff pastry (2 sheets)
1 egg yolk
1 teaspoon water
1 cup finely shredded or grated Asiago or Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
2 4- to 4.5-ounce tubes goat cheese, softened
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon snipped fresh lemon thyme or thyme or 1 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
2 pounds assorted heirloom tomatoes or tomatoes, cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/4 cup snipped fresh basil or flat-leaf parsley
Coarse salt (optional)

Directions

1. Thaw the pastry sheets at room temperature for 1 hour.
 2. For tart shells, in a small bowl, mix egg yolk with water. Set aside. Unfold the pastry sheets on a lightly floured surface. Roll gently to flatten creases (you should have a 10-inch square). Cut 1/2-inch strips from all 4 sides of each pastry sheet. Brush the edges of the pastry sheets with the egg mixture. Place the cut strips on top and along edges of the pastry sheets, gently pressing in place to form a raised edge; trim ends. Place pastries on 2 parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Brush pastries with egg mixture. Prick pastry with a fork. Sprinkle with Asiago cheese. Bake, 1 sheet at a time, in a 425 degree F oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until puffed and golden brown. Cool on baking sheets on wire racks.
 3. In a small bowl stir together goat cheese, garlic, and the thyme. Spread over bottom of tart shells.
 4. Arrange tomato slices on top of the goat cheese mixture, overlapping slightly. Drizzle with 2 tablespoons olive oil. Sprinkle with basil and coarse salt, if you like. Slide onto cutting board or serving platter, cut each tart into serving-size pieces. Makes 8 servings.
- Make-Ahead Directions:** Tart shells may also be baked up to 4 hours ahead; cover and store at room temperature.

Getting to Know our Master Gardeners



Name: Robert (Bob) Miller

Birth Place: Chicago, Illinois

Gardening background: My Dad always had a garden, and I liked helping him plant, weed, harvest, and maintain the garden. When I got older, I started gardening on my own. Vegetable gardening mostly, but the past ten years I have gotten into flower gardening and landscaping.

How long have you been gardening? For over forty years

Favorite Gardening activity and why (i.e. flower gardening, vegetable gardening, butterflies, wildlife, etc.):

I like vegetable gardening. Working and amending the soil to get the vegetables to produce the best they can is very satisfying. I also enjoy

cooking with produce that I have grown.

What is your favorite plant? Trees. They are so beautiful, provide shade, nesting for birds. I love the sound of the wind blowing through the leaves, it's a very relaxing sound.

What is your favorite gardening tool? Roto-tiller. I like the smell of the soil right after its been tilled. I also use it to turn / mix my compost piles.

What is a plant/flower that you would recommend to other gardeners? Crepe Myrtles. They come in many colors, shapes and sizes and are low maintenance.

What is a plant/flower you would tell them to avoid? Wisteria, although they are beautiful when in bloom, they need a structure or something to grow on and can spread to other nearby plants if you don't stay on top of them and prune them .

What is your best gardening tip? Start composting. It saves yard waste from going to the landfill, and can be used to amend the soil of your flowerbeds, garden, planters, as a mulch, etc.

How long have you been a Master Gardener? I was a Shelby County Master Gardener for two years, but lost interest in their program, and then found out about the Tipton County program a couple years later and graduated the program with the 2009 class. So about 3 and a half years.

How did you find out about the Master Gardener Program? I read about it in the Millington Star newspaper.

Anything else you would like to share about yourself and gardening? I really enjoy being in the outdoors, so gardening is a natural fit for me. The Tipton County Master Gardeners are a fun and friendly bunch, that are wonderful to be around.

Mark Your Calendar

Memphis Botanic Gardens

Great Gardens of the World

May 15, 2011

(4:00 PM)

Join Suzy Askew for an informal visit to the historic garden Villa de Medici (Fiesole, Italy) in image and plant.

Pre-registration is required. Beverages and light snacks provided.

MBG members \$5/ non-members \$7

Call 636-4128 for more information or to register

Mid-South Hydrangea Society Annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale

Saturday, June 4

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn

Jun 8, 2011

(12:00 PM)

Join Dr. Chris Cooper with the Shelby County Extension Office as he discusses landscaping in the sometimes difficult soil and climate of the Memphis area.

Bring your lunch or enjoy a box lunch from Fratelli's at the garden.

MBG members FREE/non-members \$5

Call 636-4100 for information.

No reservations required.

American Hydrangea Society Garden Tour

Atlanta, GA

Saturday, June 11

Dixon Gardens

Memphis area Master Gardeners

Others

International Butterfly Festival

June 24-25, 2011

Paris, Arkansas

West Tennessee Strawberry Festival

Humboldt, Tennessee

May 1-7, 2011

www.wtsf.org

Tennessee Iris Festival

Dresden, Tennessee

April 30 to 7 May 2011

www.tennesseeirisfestival.com

Anthony's Herb Festival

Anthony's Herb Farm, Brighton, TN

May 28-29 2011

