

THYMES

Cumberland County Master Gardeners

January, 2022



President: Jewell Wilhoite

The first snow of 2022! It transforms the trees, shrubs and grasses from somewhat barren to worthy of a capturing snapshot. The holly is definitely showing off.

Our first meeting of the new year brought out a hearty group to enjoy pizza and participate in club planning. Much thanks to Mike Barron for chasing down one of the few pizza parlors open on Tuesday. He was also the delivery guy. (Did we forget to tip him? Well, maybe next time, Mike.)

Since this was an informal gathering, many master gardeners asked questions and offered suggestions as to the organization and functioning of the club. We hope to see this enthusiastic involvement continue throughout the year. Further, several volunteered to fill most of the committee chair openings. A list of all committee chairs is included with this newsletter, along with officer names and contact information.

On a personal note, I am currently torn between seeds available in at least five new catalogs. I ordered in February or early March last year and received *Sold Out* notification on some seeds. Of course, I'll reserve most of my purchases of live plants for the FLAG show (April 22nd and 23rd) and the PDG plant sale (May 7th). We are all eager to see the fairgrounds once again come to life with colorful decorations, creative vendor displays, and carefully selected speakers. Thank you, Mike, and all FLAG volunteers. Ernie and Shalena deserve credit for scoping out plant sources and preparing large orders for PDG plants.

Our new intern class begins January 25th, from 9 to 12 at the Country Store. Greg invites current master gardeners to come meet and make welcome the new group. Also, those who volunteer to be mentors will want to introduce themselves and form a brief connection with mentees. Wear your best smiles.

Finally, we encourage everyone to take positive steps to stay healthy and happy. I've heard those two things go hand-in-hand. We hope to see many familiar faces at the February 1st meeting, same time, same place—5:15 to 5:30 socializing, 5:30 to 6 for refreshments, 6 to 7 for program and 7 to 7:30 business meeting. The refreshment theme is red and white. Think bold!

Vice President: Rhoda Hiller

I hope everyone is well and warm. We are expecting snow tonight so we are all hunkered down. Personally, I do not think we will have as much as the predictions. I grew up in northern Ohio, and I know a little about snow and I still am not a fan.

This has been an unusual fall season. I have seen blooms on my Flowering Almond and the Forsythia. I have pansies blooming and the hellebores and grape hyacinths are also in bloom. The daffodils are 4 inches tall and looking confused.

I am looking forward to 2022 and working with our new Board. I also am looking forward to attending our new MG classes and the Classes in the Garden.

Bill Morgan will be our speaker for the Feb 1, 2022 MG meeting. He will be talking about ferns, club mosses and spleenworts. I have always enjoyed listening to Bill's presentations. He is so knowledgeable about Native plants and ferns. His passion for preserving our native plants is evident.



*Hellebore and
Grape
Hyacinth
blooming in
Jan 2022*



Website: We have added a list of the CCMG 2022 Committees/Chairs on our site (Resources Tab). Also, a reminder that the bird feeder fundraiser for the PDG is taking orders through the end of February. Also, now would be a good time to check your listing on our member directory (Members Only Section) and let Alan Baker know of any needed corrections. Also, please remember that current financial reports and meeting minutes are available via the Members Only Section. If you forgot the password to that section, email Alan at jackal33980@gmail.com and he will remind you.

Treasurer: Several members have asked about 2022 dues. The amount of dues will be set at the January Board meeting. Then, we have to get the *qualified members* list (determined by volunteer hours and CEUs) from Gregg. When both are in place, we will send an email to those on the list regarding the 2022 dues. Until then, *keep calm...carry on*.

Email Coordinator: Alan Baker is the 2022 email coordinator. If you have not been getting our emails, let Alan know (931-239-0877).

Notes from CCMGI Master Gardeners

Timothy Purdy: An idea for Master Gardeners to do while they are waiting for spring.

- Have your soil tested for what you may need to bring your soil up to par. Pick up your test kit at the UT Extension Office. Do it now before the rush.
- Get the rust and dirt off of your hand tools with sandpaper and warm soapy water. Then apply a LIGHT coat of oil to prevent rust from coming back. (Includes wheelbarrows)
- Sharpen all pruners. I use a 4-inch hand grinder. Apply a LIGHT coat of oil, as well.
- Look at your watering cans and make sure they are clean from rust and bug nests.

All these items might be fun for Master Gardeners and also a chance to get the kids or grandkids involved, learning another side of gardening--the Maintenance side.

Vicki May: Creating a Thicket

A thicket of persimmon root suckers after the old tree died. We all know that Callery pear and Ailanthus produce root suckers when their tops are cut. Many native genera do the same. Cutting (but not treating) these trees, will produce thickets. Mid spring is the best time for most of them. One must have faith in the process. It works.

Salix, the willows

Populus, cottonwoods, aspens, balsam poplar

Smilax, sawbriers and catbriar

Rhus, the sumacs

Aralia, Devil's walkingstick

Prunus, the plums and cherries

Diospyros, the persimmons

Sassafras, sasafra

Lindera, spicebush

Asimina, pawaw

Robinia, black locust

Gleditsia, honeylocust.

Malus, crabapples

Crataegus, hawthorns

Amelanchier, Juneberries

Viburnum, in part

Euonymus, wahoo

Fagus, beech

Rosa, wild roses

Rubus, blackberries and raspberries

It's possible to grow thickets of any of these by cutting single trees and allowing them to sprout. This idea can be very useful in the effort to restore native forests and control invasive plants. In converting lawns to forest, attention to detail and patience are required in order to not mow them down.

Michael Moreken is growing Fred Mullen's garlic in his garden. *Good information to know when we have pasta night next summer.*

Linda Ferris & Linda Glenn: MG Storage Unit

The two Lindas have been in the thick of it, confronting dust and disorder, alike. They report that we now have a clear view of all our merchandise. Contacts to determine some questionable items are in progress.

We now have very able *go to* coordinators for maintaining storage. Yea!

2022 CCMGA Committee Chairs

Classes at PDG	Ron & Rosie Drechnik
Communications (Emails and Website).....	Alan Baker
Crossville Planting Projects.....	Carolyn Jozwiak
Garden Membership.....	Erin Fletcher Conley
Holiday Community Outreach.....	Connie Farley, Susan Partch
Hospitality.....	Ron & Rosie Drechnik
Host, 2022 Intern Class.....	Connie Farley
KinderGarden Field Trips and Publicity.....	Vicki May, Linda Shaffer
Liaison with Tree Board.....	Bill Morgan
Local Publicity.....	
Mentor Program.....	Vicki May
MG Information Desk.....	Debbie Ward
MG Merchandise.....	Rhoda Hiller
MG Newsletter.....	Jewell Wilhoite
Plateau Discovery Garden.....	Ernie Wood, Mike Barron
REAP Program.....	Ron Drechnik
Social Media.....	Erin Fletcher Conley
Speakers Bureau.....	Fred Mullen, Bill Morgan
Spring Flower, Lawn, and Garden Show (FLAG).....	Mike Barron
*Spring Plant Sale.....	Ernie Wood
Storage Room Coordinator.....	Linda Glenn, Linda Ferris
Volunteer Hours.....	Cheryl Boney
*Fall Gardeners Festival.....	Ernie Wood
*PDG Internship(s).....	

*In coordination with Shalena Durkot and Walt Hitch

2022 CCMGI Officers

President: Jewell Wilhoite wilhoitejewell283@gmail.com

Vice President: Rhoda Hiller rhodaworld@aol.com

Secretary: Julia Wood pedersonj@comcast.net

Treasurer: Alan Baker jackal33980@gmail.com