

THYMES MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

JULY, 2021



Flower of Light

President: Ron Drechnik

Hi Fellow Master Gardeners,

This month the Drechniks have again been busy with our gardens. We have transplanted some of our lilies that I dug up, so I could plant the shrubs we purchased around the work shop. We are starting to get crops from participating in the UT variety garden trials. And, of course, there is always weeding!

As to club business, the Board reviewed the survey results and is looking at ways to implement some of the suggestions that were made. Thank you to all of you who took the time to take the survey. We are

starting with communications, as that seemed to be a common concern. We have opened up the *members only* area on the web site and are adding a lot of info to it. We have minutes of the general and board meetings from the last six months and will be having general meeting agenda posted there before the meetings, plus other pertinent information. We are hoping to have a focus group in the future to discuss ways by which we can communicate with people who have poor or no internet. Alan will go over the web site and have more information at the next meeting.

The next board meeting will be August 19 at 2:00 at the country store, and the next Umbrella committee meeting will be August 4 at 1:00 in the classroom at PDG.

On site classes have resumed in the gardens. Please look at your calendar and see if you might be available to host one of the classes in the garden. On August 7th from 9-11 Rhoda will be teaching a rock painting class for kids.

On August 9th from 9-11 Bill Morgan will be teaching a class on Invasive Plants.

Rosie and I have each hosted a class. They are small and it is easy to do, as well as FUN!

Have a great day. See you at the next meeting **August 3 at 5:30** at PDG's outdoor classroom.

Remember: no food or beverages will be provided so please bring whatever you wish for yourself.

Vice President: Linda Ferris

Our speakers for August will be doubled! First, we will hear from Chloe, our intern, who will report on her activities for the summer program. THEN, Rhoda will take us on a walk thru the KinderGarden and tell us a bit of history about how it all got started and where we are now.

As for my garden, I have a volunteer corn plant that is about 3-4 feet tall! It's not under my bird feeder, and it's not even close to my bird feeder. Plus, I haven't been putting seed in my feeder since some time last year! Stay tuned! I'll report whether or not it produces!



My tomatoes were looking beautiful and bushy (!), so I went home after our last meeting and pruned out all the excess branches. I also moved the pots a bit to give them more air, and I sprayed for fungus. Then I noticed blossom end rot on about 6 tomatoes. I sprayed the rest of them, and they seem to be OK for now.

My apple tree has the same rust-color leaves that Gregg mentioned his mother's trees had! It was doing so well! More blossoms and leafier than it has ever been. One apple.

I have a small azalea that was not doing very well in the spring, so I fed it and made sure it was watered regularly. It began to leaf out and I was pleased with its progress. Then it lost its leaves again and looked really poor. That's when I discovered a little rabbit had been eating the leaves!! Now it has a fence around it.

Oh the joys of gardening!

Website: Alan Baker

We now have a new *Members Only* page where lots of CCMG information is available, and it is password-protected. You should have received a new member directory, and the password for that new website section is at the top of that document in red ink. You can go to that new page from the menu on any page [Resources], then [Member Resources], then click on the Members-Only button. Or, you can save this link and go directly there from your Internet browser: <https://www.ccmga.org/members-only>

All of the prior member-related documents are there, and now you have access to the prior 6 months of Board minutes, Financial reports, and Membership meeting minutes. You also have access there to the Wants/Needs survey results and analysis documents and the member directory.

Wants/Needs Survey: Thank you for participating...we had 42 responses! This survey has been completed and has been very helpful to the Board. We have made some immediate changes to improve communication, such as the new Members Only webpage where you will find more documents including minutes and financial reports. We will talk more about the survey and other possible actions at the August membership meeting.

Our Events Calendar: Please remember that we have an online calendar viewable via our website. On the home page, there is a link to it and an additional one on the Members-Only page of the website. We will try to do a better job of keeping that information current going forward.

Sue Partch: Wild Geraniums



I didn't recognize the Tennessee version of this plant at first, because the New England ones I'm used to have bigger, pinker flowers. I have some on my home property, but mostly I run into this in the big daylily plot at PDG. My research said it is not invasive and is a spring plant, but considering the quantity I've pulled out of the daylilies over the course of a summer, I beg to differ.

Wild geranium or Crane's Bill, so called because of the shape of its seed pod, is offered commercially as a ground cover and recommended for native gardens. Deer eat the flowers, birds eat the seeds and some butterfly larvae eat both. Bees and some flies, beetles and wasps are common pollinators. Oddly, the pollen is blue which attracts some specialized, unusual pollinators.

Human uses are mostly medicinal, although the young leaves can be eaten raw in salads or cooked as greens; taste is described as an unappetizing sour or bitter. My husband says his Grandmother used to make an apple jelly with wild geranium leaves in it. Because of the tannin in it, the root can be used as a natural brown dye.



This same tannin provides most of its medicinal properties. Tannin is both an astringent and a homeostatic. It contains polyphenol, a substance that promotes healing through causing membranes to shrink, closing a wound. Native Americans used it extensively for many things, including any mouth lesions, burns, hemorrhoids, hemorrhages, and diarrhea. Fresh leaves could be used as a poultice for stings and as a mosquito repellent rub. Wild geranium extract is currently sold in herbal outlets as an anti-inflammatory and anti-hemorrhaging substance.

As always, there's a lighter side. The Iroquois believed that placing a tea made from wild geranium roots near a person who had put a love charm on someone could release that someone from the spell.

Information for this article is from the following on-line sites: CommonsenseHome; WeeklyWeeder#22; St Olafs College; University of Wisconsin; Wisconsin Horticulture; and HealthBenefitstimes.com

Jewell Wilhoite: Garden Tips

According to a recognized gardener on *Gardener's World*, now is the time to dig up and separate your big clumps of perennials needing division. Be sure to find a good place for replanting before you start digging them up. The idea is that most are in a strong period of growth and will tolerate, maybe even benefit, from replanting now. Taking into account that we are in the South and it's hot, it might be wise to try this with shade loving plants, only. And, remember to water well after transplanting. Let us know how this turns out if you try such a move.

The celebration's not over until we say it's over. *It's over—*
at least for this month.