

THYMES
CUMBERLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
OCTOBER, 2021



President: Ron Drechnik

Hi Fellow Master Gardeners,

Not a lot going on at Drechnik gardens right now. We are grateful for the nice crop of lettuce, arugula, and radishes we are enjoying (Rosie more than I). I'm getting ready to remove the dead plants from my

raised beds and add my grass over the soil for winter. I did notice that I have garlic growing from the seeds that were left in the ground when I harvested last year's crop.

Now on to club information:

Rosie and I are taking on the job of scheduling classes for next year. We need your help in knowing what subjects you would like to learn about. As Gregg has so wisely suggested, we will try to enlist Ag. agents from around the state to give classes, but we need to know what you would like them to talk about.

Please send us an email or text with your requests and ideas. If any of you have taught a class before, please contact us and we will gladly put you on the schedule. We are looking to have somewhere between 20 and 30 classes this year.

The next big event will be our November meeting which will be election night. It will be held at the Country Store because Crossville does not have elections that night, even though it is election night elsewhere. There is no theme for the potluck so bring anything you feel like cooking, baking, or sharing.

The roster of next year's board is:

Jewell Wilhoite-President

Rhoda Hiller-Vice President

Allan Baker-Treasurer

Julia Wood-Secretary

We are still contacting (re-contacting) members for the **President Elect** position to fill out the board.

The last thing we have coming up is our December Awards Banquet.

This year it will be on **December 7 from 1:45 till 4:00**, in the **Cumberland Room** at the **Art Circle Library**. We had to move to the library because the Community Center at the fairgrounds was already scheduled. The cost for the tickets this year will be \$20. I know that this is more than in years past, but since we had no dues this year and no FLAG the last 2 years, our budget does not allow for the club to pay the bulk of the cost, as in previous years. Fortes will be catering again this year. We figured out the total cost and \$20 covers it with the club making \$0 profit.

A special thank you to those members that volunteered at the Hit the Trails event in FFG: Pam Barrett, Jan Rice and Linda Ferris.

PLEASE get any unreported hours you have earned turned in. Getting hours entered using the new on-line reporting system will greatly reduce the man hours formerly needed to compile all those numbers for everyone.

Happy Gardening as you put your beds to sleep for the winter and dream of all the possibilities for next season.

Vice President: Linda Ferris

From my back porch, I can see Renegade, Black & Hinch Mountains. There is a large stand of trees that are beginning to show their colors-- some orange & gold, a little yellow. Out my den window, I can see a few leaves on my Maple Tree turning bright red. I can't wait until all the leaves turns because it will be beautiful. The Dogwoods, of course, have already turned a muted red. Lots of leaves have been falling. Sometimes it feels like it is raining leaves! The Oaks are hanging on, but there are acorns on my younger Oaks. I have some impatiens in a pot on the side of my deck, along with some vinca and geraniums that are still looking good! The impatiens in my front yard, which are in a semi-protected spot, are doing okay, but looking a little peaked. I can't wait for December 21st, because then the hours will slowly get longer!!

Our speaker for November is Monica Hackett who will speak on all things bees & honey and what can be made from honey.

Sue Partch: Field Garlic



Field garlic is invasive. It does not seem to grow on my property, but it certainly likes the daylily beds at PDG. We painstakingly weeded all the big ones out this spring, but now all the little bulblets we missed are sprouting--hundreds of them. It's very disheartening, as they resist chemical herbicides and must be dug out by hand. At least none of them got to flower and make seeds or aerial bulbils.

So, maybe we should just eat them. As with all the onion family, every part of the plant is edible, even tasty if you like onion/garlic flavors. Use the young, thin hollow leaves as you would chives or green onions. They can be boiled as greens but are somewhat stringy. The flowers make a pretty, flavorful garnish. Chop the small bulbs to use as a substitute for ordinary garlic. Use sparingly at first; different patches have varying strength of flavor.

Identify the plant by its smell when the leaves or bulbs are cut or damaged. If it smells like onion or garlic, it's edible. It sprouts in the fall for harvest in winter and spring. Field garlic will be found primarily in man-made or disturbed environments; but avoid eating from areas where there might be heavy metals, toxins or chemicals, as field garlic will absorb these pollutants from the soil.

Field garlic contains several vitamins and minerals that contribute to its medicinal uses, including allicin, a sulfur compound that gives its aroma and taste. It provides immune-boosting, as well as antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, helps reduce blood cholesterol, aids digestion and stimulates the circulatory system. Among other health claims are anti-asthmatic and as a croup remedy.

In the animal world field garlic is a repellent. Deer avoid it so you could make an unprotected garden of it. Plant it around your garden or lawn edge to repel moles and some insects. Rub the juice of the plant on arms and legs as a biting insect repellent (test a small area of skin before doing this). Some moth repellents use the juice, too. Beware, though, certain mammals can get sick if they eat large quantities; dogs should avoid eating it as they are especially susceptible.

And for the oddity of the month: cows that eat a lot of field garlic in their grazing can pass the flavor into their milk, and bread made from wheat grown in fields heavily infested with the plant can taste garlicky.

Information for this article was taken from the following on-line sources: specialtyproduce, thegoodliferevival, tacticalintelligence, naturalmedicinalherbs, mossyoak.

Comments on Fall Growth

As to what's doing well in the cool nights and warm days of autumn:

The spreading verbena seems to think this is the best time to bloom, along with marigolds. Both are more vibrant and overflowing with blossoms than they've been all summer. Zinnia flowers are also holding on. Plus, a late blooming mum is just now showing its colors. Linda Ferris has Forsythia which seems to be revitalized. What's the word on cool weather vegetables?

Mike Barron: Friendly Signals

What do you think...when you are driving down a country road and someone walking waves at you?

Do you wonder if you know them? Are they just passing time or trying to flag you down? Did the person actually wave, or just raise a hand in passing? Does their reason for waving matter?

All of this happens in an instant, after which you must immediately decide whether to respond before you pass. And, if so, how? Do you wave back? Is just raising a finger off the steering wheel in acknowledgment enough? Or do you toot the horn to make them feel good?

If you don't give some form of response, what does that say about you? After passing, do you ever worry about what the walker thinks if you ignored them?

Would it make a difference if the person were waving from their porch instead of walking along the road? If someone waves when they're sitting on the porch and it's not guaranteed you'll even see them, is that greater proof of friendliness? If someone walking waves, is it because they are friendly, or they just don't want to appear unfriendly?

I walk frequently with my dogs and, because we have road frontage, I see a lot of people in cars. As I tend to walk at the same times each day, I see many of the same people. I can often recognize a familiar car from a long way off, but if the driver were to approach me in a store (and it has happened), I might not even know them. Some of these people I've known for years through many interactions that only last for a few seconds.

I live out in the country, but the waves, honks and even raised fingers all make me feel like I'm in a community with lots of friends – or at least lots of friendly acquaintances. So next time you see me waving, give me a smile and wave back. Maybe if we get enough people waving, we can make the world that we live in seem a little friendlier.

Meet Our Master Gardener Members--October 2021

Interviews by Rosie Drechnik

Dick Kaleba

Dick and his wife Kay moved to Fairfield Glade from Naperville, Illinois in 2014. He retired from a career in Hospital Administration and consulting. He is the father of 5 boys and grandfather of 13 (7 girls and 6 boys). No pets.

Dick has been a certified Master Gardener since 2011 which he earned in Illinois. When asked what his favorite part of his training was, he stated the access to horticultural and agricultural faculty which he still enjoys in Tennessee. He especially enjoys vegetable gardening and, in the past, managed the community gardens in Fairfield Glade, as well as participated in that endeavor.

Dick does not see himself as an expert in any particular area of gardening but states he knows where to look for information when needed. He currently volunteers at the Help Desk most weeks and enjoys learning and helping others as a result. He also has volunteered as needed in many other CCMG events and projects. He considers gardening his hobby and would be interested in seeing classes on seed starting, climate, perennials, and almost anything having to do with gardening.

Julia Wood

Julia and her husband Jerry Pederson moved to Fairfield Glade 5 years ago from Kent, Washington (40 miles SE of Seattle). She retired from her career as a Chemical Engineer, focusing on the environment. She has two stepchildren and one child (1 boy, 2 girls) and four grandchildren, with another on the way (3 boys and 1 girl with another girl coming)! She has 2 dogs and guppies for pets.

Julia became a certified Master Gardener in 2017 in Cumberland County and stated her favorite part of the training was identifying insects and learning about the soil (very different from Washington!). Her favorite thing about CCMG is the constant learning, even while weeding out at PREC. She especially enjoys Bonsai, the challenges of shade gardening and wildflower gardening.

Julia has held an office in CCMG and is on the roster for Secretary for 2022. She is currently working on helping to decorate the Christmas tree, representing CCMG, has and will be working at FLAG at the craft table, and spends time out at PREC maintaining the rain garden. She considers herself an expert in Bonsai but has had to put it aside due to family responsibilities of late. Her hobbies include oil painting, metal sculpture, and beginning quilting. She was also a big water sport fan (kayaking) until recently. She would like to see classes on moss gardening, propagation, shade native plants, landscaping and conifers.

MANY THANKS TO ALL MASTER GARDENER CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS MONTH'S THYMES. YOU ROCK!