

# *The Thymes*

The Cumberland County Master Gardener's Monthly Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2025

In brisk wind of September  
The heavy-headed fruits  
Shake upon their bending boughs  
And drop from the shoots;  
Some glow golden in the sun,  
Some show green and streaked,  
Some set forth a purple bloom,  
Some blush rosy-cheeked.

Christina Georgina Rosetti, from "A Year's Windfalls" 1866



Photo credit: Creative Commons

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Margo Carroll

Dear Master Gardeners,

As September arrives, I want to thank each of you for the positive impact you've had on our community this year. Every hour you've volunteered—whether teaching, planting, or greeting visitors—has helped us fulfill our mission of horticultural education and community service.

### 2025 has been a year full of growth and accomplishment:

- **Flower, Lawn & Garden Festival (April):** Hundreds joined us for two days of education, vendors, and garden inspiration.
- **Workshops & Classes:** From *Hydrangea Propagation* to *Frog Went a Courtin'*, we've inspired gardeners of all ages.
- **Community Outreach:** Tours, demonstrations, and conversations have spread knowledge and strengthened connections across Cumberland County and beyond.
- **Cheers to 20 Years of the Plateau Discovery Garden:** Was a joyful celebration of two decades of Master Gardeners at the Plateau Discovery Garden, and the start of the next 20 years.
- **Fall Gardeners Festival:** Was a wonderful event brought together by the UT crew and the Cumberland County Master Gardeners it was an attendance record breaking day with 1,475 visiting! A beautiful day of

learning and fun that touched so many.

- **Looking Ahead – TN GarlicFest (Sept. 27):** Our first Garlic Festival, in partnership with the Apple Festival, and Galena Garlic will bring growers, artists, and fall fun to the fairgrounds.

Every seed of knowledge you share makes a difference. From the Plateau Discovery Garden to classrooms and community events, your efforts are shaping a greener, stronger future for our county.

Thank you for all you do—I am proud to serve alongside each of you.

With gratitude,

*Margo*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS YOU CAN USE



- **Our next Membership Meeting** is September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll gather to socialize at 5:00 PM, enjoy a potluck dinner at 5:30 PM, and the guest speaker will start at 6:00 PM. Our speaker will be Ron Daniels, American Rose Society Master Consulting Rosarian and Master Gardener! (He's coming to our meeting from the Nashville area.) The business meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

• **It's time to consider being a member of the 2026 Board!** Please pause for a moment to consider how your talents and skillsets might benefit our leadership. We'll talk about nominations at the above-mentioned meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- **The Photo Contest** is underway for a couple more months, so please keep your eyes open for that award-winning snapshot. The rules are few, but photos with a Cumberland County Master Gardener focus are of particular interest. Good Luck in winning that Major Award!



This Photo by

- **Thanks to all** who have helped pull these newsletters together. Your input is sincerely appreciated, especially this month, as I am wearing several hats. I apologize, in advance, for any errors and/or omissions. Remember to send future items of interest before the end of September to Jan Pitzer at [jprp1990@gmail.com](mailto:jprp1990@gmail.com)

***"On the shore of nature's magic, I dreamed summer knew no end."***

***— Angie Weiland-Crosby***

## A REVIEW OF AUGUST EVENTS

*Fair, Field days, Fall Festival and a 20 Years Celebration*

by Sue Partch

August was a busy month for Master Gardeners. We put up an award-winning booth at the Cumberland County Fair, celebrated our 20th year with a Gala at the PDG pavilion, helped serve at the Field Days and staffed the annual Fall Festival. In preparation many of us spent hours in the gardens weeding, trimming, deadheading and generally sprucing up the whole area so it would look nice for our guests.



To portray the goat theme of this year's fair, booth creators Connie Farley and Sue Partch put together a combination of lots of goats and fair items. A backdrop of a fair scene was replicated by a toy size fair set up on the floor. A "book" about kid goats going to a fair above the backdrop stated the fair



theme.

To illustrate it, 2 stuffed fabric goat kids on stands with fair pictures "dancing" on a wire between their heads "danced" above the fair set-up. On one side wall were goat and fair themed items and info. On the other was a fair booth model promoting kid themed PDG offerings. Goat pictures filled the edges. MG and PDG info was in a pockhanger on the left front right next to our BLUE ribbon! **Photos from Sue Partch/Connie Farley**



The annual Steak & Potatoes Field Days of info sessions for cattlemen, fruit and vegetable producers and landowners hosted by the UT extension service was held on Thursday, August 21. While the guests attended sessions, Master Gardeners helped set up the traditional steak and potatoes lunch. They were the servers for the buffet lines for the food, drinks and ice cream that made up the meal. After enjoying their own servings of the lunch they cleaned it all up and packed away leftovers. Thanks to organizer Carol Burdett and her volunteer workers.

### Photo Credits (2): Creative Commons

Our 20 years celebration was held on Friday evening, August 22, from 5 to 7pm. The event began with socializing over wine and hors d'oeuvres. A background video played scenes of the growth of the gardens and MG events over the years. Following social mingling Master Gardener Mike Barron introduced a program of brief remarks by several UT and PREC speakers about the gardens history and purpose and the PDG endowment. To end on a sweet note, a cake celebrating our 20th year was served. The abundant charcuterie board was provided by Cheese and Charm Co. Floral table and entrance decorations contributed and arranged by Julia Woods.



Fall Festival was held on Tuesday, August 26, a lovely sunny (but thankfully not too hot) end of summer day. Attendance of 1475 is a new record. The 30 educational sessions were well attended with some having standing room only. The plant and food vendors were busy; guests wandered through all parts of the gardens; the test garden was a big hit; and Janet Coe's decorations were, as always, bright patches of autumn throughout the gardens. Big thanks to Leslie Mullican for organizing all the volunteers that helped setup on Monday, worked all the help stations and our booth all day, answered many questions and cleaned up after. Everything seemed to go pretty smoothly with all glitches dealt with - including the finding of a lost hearing aid.



**Photos from Janet Coe**



# Smart Yards and Friends FESTIVAL



Saturday, September 27th 2025

9am - 1pm at UT Gardens

2518 Jacob Drive, Knoxville TN 37996

## How Smart Is Your Yard?



TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

- *Explore the Gardens*
- *Water's Edge*
- *Awesome Compost*
- *Native Plants*
- *Lawn to Meadow*
- *Gardening for Wildlife*
- *Ask-A-Master-Gardener*
- *Smart Yards Realtors*
- *Pesticide-Seed Swap*



Pre-register here for extra ticket to win rain barrel, worm bin, native plants, wildflower seeds and bat box. Must be present to win

FREE EVENT - NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**UT EXTENSION**  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

**tsu** COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

**MASTER  
GARDENERS**  
Knox County Tennessee

## Remember the Rain Barrel!



The special member cost is only \$76.00 each – including tax!

To purchase, click on the link below. The discount code is ccmg.20.2. Please make pick up arrangements via Margo at 931-202-4438. Pick up will be at the Plateau Discovery Garden.

<https://www.rainwatersolutions.com/products/crossvilletn>



### Gardener's To-Do List for September

From the *Gardening Almanac for The Plateau*, created by the CCMG association in memory of Betty Bush/2017. Copies are available for \$10.00 at the UT Extension office and the Plateau Garden office.

- **Soil** – If your soil has not been tested within the past 3-5 years, this is a good time to have it done. Please contact the local Agricultural Extension office 484-6743 for further information on this procedure.
- **Cacti** – If your holiday cacti have been outside for the summer, it's time to start conditioning them for inside. About September 1<sup>st</sup>, reduce the frequency of watering by one half, and fertilize only every 6-8 weeks. Keep the plants outside until October 15<sup>th</sup> to allow flower promotion to begin. If frost is predicted, protect them with a paper bag or pillowcase. In mid-October, bring the plants back indoors and place near a sunny window.
- **Daffodils** – Plant this month, if possible, or any time before the ground freezes. Most root growth is done in the fall and winter. Bulbs of normal size should be planted about 6 inches deep, and smaller bulbs can be planted 3 or 4 inches deep. A real plus is that deer will leave daffodils alone.
- **Do Not**- Don't plant peaches, plums or cherries in the fall – they do better when planted in the spring.
- **Do** – Plant apples, pears and quinces. They do well when planted in the fall.

# TENNESSEE GARLIC

FEST



# GARLICFEST

CROSSVILLE TN

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Cumberland County Fairgrounds

Presented by

Galena Garlic & Cumberland County Master Gardeners



Bountiful pepper harvest from Tomato and Pepper Trial at the PDG.

## The 2025 Tomato and Pepper Trial

Photos from Kristi DuBois

Sunflowers at the Height of Glory At the Tomato and Veggie Trial Plot.



## A Night Walk with a Blacklight

Laura Riester

Last year I purchased a black light, originally not for fun, but to find scorpions which had made their way into a house where I was staying. Scorpions fluoresce dramatically when exposed to UV light. I used my iPhone and my camera to document this phenomenon. Unfortunately, the sensors in the phone and also in my Canon camera tend to add blue tones to the very bright fluorescent green, making the object look less green.

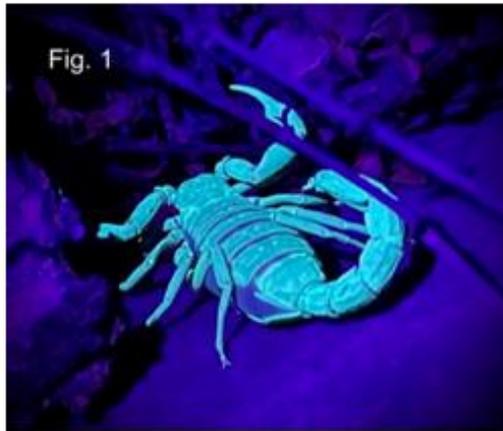


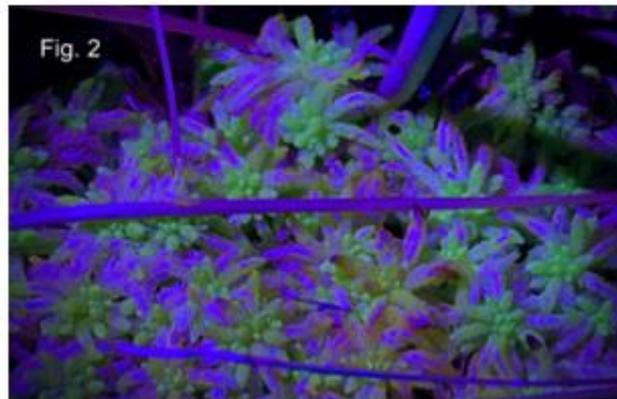
Fig. 1 is an example of a scorpion under UV light, captured with my iPhone. The blacklight is not only good for hunting scorpions; I am learning to have fun exploring nature's response to UV light and then photographing it with my iPhone or my Canon camera.

A couple of days ago I wanted to take a look at my pitcher plants (*Sarracenia*) or their prey with my blacklight. I did not notice anything unusual. Instead I observed an interesting response of the moss which I keep as a companion plant: unlike the reddish or violet color that I generally see in mature foliage when

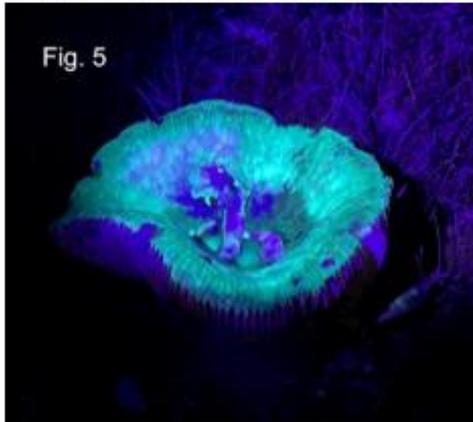
exposed to the blacklight, the moss glowed bright green with violet at the tips. Fig. 2 is an illustration of this. The sedge, some of it visible in Fig. 2 and the pitcher plants themselves glowed violet.

The most dramatic response to the blacklight I observed so far was on a mushroom, most likely a *Russula*. I photographed it during the day, then illuminated it with the black light. I went back after dark. That mushroom really put on a show as illustrated in Figs.3-6.

For future explorations, I plan



to stabilize the phone on a tripod. What amazes me is that with digital cameras and phones we are able to capture interaction between UV light, chlorophyll, chemical compounds, fungi and little critters without needing specialized sensors and equipment. This adds a new layer of possibilities for naturalists and photographers.





## Field Trip to Tiny Roots Farm and Galena Garlic Co. Store

Organized by Patricia Dominguez/Photos from Margo Carroll



CCMG Committees Teams Positions : 2025

Ask a Master Gardener Desk	Debbie Ward
Bulb Sales Spring & Fall	Linda Ferris, Carolyn Jozwiak
Classes at the Garden	Julia Wood
Community Outreach	Connie Farley
Crossville Planting Projects	Carolyn Jozwiak
Decorating	
E-Mail Coordinator	Alan Baker
Fall Gardeners Festival	Leslie Mullican
Flower, Lawn & Garden Festival	Leslie Mullican, Margo Carroll
Garden Teas	Sue Partch
Hospitality	Ron & Rosie Drechnik Andrea & Tony Capannola
Intern Class Hosting & Welcome Team	Rita Reali, Julie Lesko / Greg Recht, Barbara Blackford, Carla Lund
KinderGarden	Sue Maruska
Membership Contact list	Alan Baker
Merchandise / Publications, Membership clothing	SK Smallwood & Margo Carroll
Newsletter	Jan Pitzer
PDG Spring Plant Sale	Leslie Mullican
PDG Coordinator Director	Vicki May
PDG Umbrella Committee Representative	Mike Barron
Plant Growing & Propagation	
Plateau Discovery Garden UT Membership	Erin Fletcher
Publicity	Kristi Dubois, Erin Fletcher
Rain Barrel Program	
Facebook - Members Group	Alan Baker
Facebook - Public Page	Erin Fletcher
Instagram - Public Page	
YouTube - Public Page	
Search For Excellence	
Speakers Bureau	Carol Burdett
Website	Kelsey Whitefield, Alan Baker

corrections 1/5/2025