

The Thymes

JUNE 2025

In the wind of sunny June
Thrives the red rose crop,
Every day fresh blossoms blow
While the first leaves drop;
White rose and yellow rose
And moss-rose choice to find,
And the cottage cabbage-rose
Not one whit behind.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, Margo Carroll

Dear Members,

Summer has officially arrived, and with it comes the vibrant energy of June! Our gardens are flourishing, and so is our calendar of events. I'm thrilled to share what's in store for the month and encourage each of you to participate where you can—whether to learn, lead, or simply enjoy the camaraderie of fellow gardeners.

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 3rd at 1:00 PM

Country Store

Our monthly meeting is a great opportunity to stay informed, get involved, and share gardening stories with fellow members. Come early to mingle and bring your questions and ideas!

Classes in the Garden – "Frog Went A-Courtin"

Saturday, June 7th, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

UT Gardens – 320 Experiment Station Road, Crossville

This lighthearted and educational session will combine storytelling with garden learning—fun for all ages and a great way to connect kids with the garden!

Master Gardener Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 17th, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

1398 Livingston Road, Crossville

Board members, please plan to attend. All members are welcome to sit in and learn more about the organizational side of our programs.

🌸 **Hydrangea Propagation Workshop**

Saturday, June 28th, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

1267 Sawmill Road, Crossville, TN 38555

Join us for an in-depth look at hydrangea varieties, proper care, and propagation techniques. For just \$10, you'll gain knowledge *and* take home a propagated plant of your own!

🌿 **Volunteers Needed – Birds, Bees, Bucks & Trees Event**

We need a couple of volunteers to staff our Master Gardener booth at the *Birds, Bees, Bucks, and Trees* event at the **local fairgrounds**. It's a fantastic outreach opportunity to connect with the community, share gardening resources, and promote our programs. If you're interested, please let me know or sign up at the June 3rd meeting.

As always, thank you for the heart and dedication you bring to our Master Gardener family. Whether you're planting seeds, educating others, or just stopping to smell the roses—what you do matters. Let's keep growing and giving back!



See you in the garden!

Warmest regards,

Margo





Get your Rain Barrels at a DISCOUNT!

\$76 for members; \$96 for the public. (CCMG20, and CCMG20.2 are the codes for master gardeners to use for the \$20 discount) These are recycled plastic, made in the USA. ***Order online*** Pick up at the PDG.

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

Gardener's To-Do List for June

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.

- **Watering** – Consider adding rain barrels to your yard, providing a free source of water containing no chlorine, lime or calcium. See the previous page for your opportunity to save on one today!
- **Japanese Beetles** – Watch your blooms! If you have a dish of soapy water handy, just pluck them into it and they will drown. Or, they can even be attacked with a fly swatter.
- **Blooming Perennials** – Tall perennials, before they bloom, may need to be staked to keep them from bending over in high wind or hard rain. Many perennials will keep flowering if cut back after their first bloom period, such as garden phlox, heliopsis, veronica, and echinacea.
- **Tomatoes** – Blossom-end rot of tomato is a “physiological” disease caused by uneven watering of the tomato patch and a deficiency of calcium in the soil. It can be prevented by regular deep watering of the garden with drip irrigation or soaker hoses in addition to mulching for water conservation. A Knoxville greenhouse grower recommends fertilizing with calcium nitrate rather than agricultural grade 10-10-10 fertilizer. Some varieties that are resistant to this malady are Celebrity, Goliath and Mountain Pride.
- **Fruit Trees** – Remove suckers from the base of all fruit trees, particularly apple and pear, and remove all thick water sprouts shooting up straight on the branches. Also remove any diseased, dying, or insect-riddled wood. Continue a regular disease and insect preventative spray schedule until 10 days before harvest.



Remember to send your articles for next month's newsletter to Jan Pitzer at jprp1990@gmail.com

Without your valuable input, this newsletter can't deliver the spirit of our vibrant membership.

Mowing Weeds

By Sue Parch

Due to all the rain, daylilies and FLAG I never got around to mowing my lawn (green things that can be mowed as mentioned previously) until after FLAG. By that time, of course, the green things were 10+ inches high. But it wasn't just green things I was mowing, it was pinks and yellows and whites and blues. My "lawns" are actually more like small fields with all the field wild flowers/weeds.

In my south yard I cheerfully cut down dandelion puffs, yellow rocket and fleabane. No problem running over low growers like cinquefoil, blue ground ivy, tiny yellow flowered black medic and white clover. After years of pulling them out of the daylilies I have no sympathy for buttercups. Along the woody edges I mow down the yellow violets and Carolina pinks comforting myself that there are lots more beyond those edges. Ditto wood sorrel and pussy toes. And then there are the daisies. I like daisies; they are so cheery and I feel bad cutting them all down so I leave a few, usually along the sides of the rock islands in the yard. There's something that looks like a small blue foxglove, a kind of skullcap??. I leave a few of them, too, tho that's harder because they grow in the middle of the yard - like the field madder, ladies tresses, yellow loosestrife and blue-eyed grass that come out later.

In the north "lawn" there are some of the same culprits: dandelions, fleabane, ground ivy, cinquefoil, yellow violets, clover. Here is where I have lots of chickweed; also purple and purple & white violets tho fewer and fewer each year because mowing them drastically reduces self seeding. I used to feel bad about mowing violets but they are so aggressive I've gotten over that. I noticed short wild white Johnny-jump-ups in this lawn this year and occasionally Venus looking glass creeps out of my garden into the mowing area. And moss, lots of moss, several different kinds with just enough spotty grass that I have to run over it with the mower.

At the end of the driveway on the strip of roadside bank I've claimed as part of my gardening efforts, I have 2 long narrow patches I mow. Here I cut down (but leave a few) thistles, Carolina pinks, field madder, a small pale foxglove looking thing, pussy toes, mountain mint. I leave no goldenrod or ragwort. Later in the summer there will be Queen Anne's lace, wild asters and several kinds of sunflowers and coreopsis. I carefully mow around the unique rattlesnake master because it's so different.

There's more. Some I've forgotten to write down and others I've never gotten around to identifying. But you get the idea. Turf grass? I have a little in the middle of the north lawn but mostly I just mow small fields of blooming weeds. And feel guilty about beheading all the flowers....except for the fleabane...and the dandelions....and the violetsand...



Apple Blossoms

By Laura Reister

I was part of the Master Gardener class of 2023. A few sessions were taught in the Plateau Discovery Garden. In one of them Gregg Upchurch showed us how to prune young fruit trees. It was April and the small apple trees were in bloom.



After our lessons I planned to visit a dear friend and be there to celebrate her 99th birthday. I was allowed to collect some of the cuttings to make a bouquet for my friend's birthday. Her home was already full of cut flowers when I arrived with the bouquet of apple blossoms.

She remarked later that the bouquet I had brought had been her favorite because it had been so unexpected and so natural.



The young apple trees at the PDG are close to the daylily plot in which some of us spend quite a bit of time year-round. Spring and summer 2023 came and went. During the early fall I watched one apple ripen on the tree that Gregg Upchurch had pruned. The words THE TEMPTATION OF EVE came to mind. That little apple looked so lonely and tempting.

Eventually, the apple disappeared – not because I could not resist – I promise. Maybe the deer liked it.

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A year later, in 2024, instead of bringing my friend a bouquet of apple blossoms for her 100th birthday, I made her a card with a photo of the masses of dandelions that were shedding seeds in the vicinity of the daylily plot and the apple trees. The grass had not been cut, probably because of excessive rain. My friend was not so sure what to think or what had driven me to give her a card with dandelion seedheads. Well, I think dandelion seed heads are beautiful. I also had been fascinated to learn that dandelion seed heads follow the mathematical order which conforms to the Fibonacci sequence and the golden ratio. This, fortunately or unfortunately, maximizes the seed packing density and very efficient seed dispersal.



I probably spent too much time examining and counting the spirals thinking everyone would be as fascinated as I was with the packing of dandelion seeds. Another year passed. In April 2025, the apple trees bloomed again and my friend turned 101 on April 12. In the daylily plot, the dandelions are coming up by the thousands. I will soon have opportunity to see how many apples the little trees will produce this year and plenty of opportunity to convince myself that the seed dispersal in dandelions still conforms to the Fibonacci sequence.....



“What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfillment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will ever fade.”

– Gertrude Jekyll

Gertrude Jekyll, a British horticulturist and garden designer, eloquently describes the enchanting nature of June in this quote. She portrays June as a time of youthful summer, when the promises of earlier months are fulfilled. Jekyll’s words evoke a sense of wonder and anticipation, as she suggests that June’s beauty is untarnished by the passage of time. This quote encourages us to embrace the fleeting beauty of June and to appreciate the present moment without dwelling on the future.

This Bears Repeating

To: CCMG Members + 2023, 2024 and 2025 Classes

From: Vicki May

A couple of weeks ago I had an itch at the back of my ankle.

It was a very small lone star tick. I removed it and cleaned the site. I had been to PDG and in my gardens at home so I don't know when it jumped on board. A few days later I made a delicious pot roast dinner. The next day I had a rash and hives. I went to the doctor knowing I needed a blood test to see if it was tick related. The first set of tests came back negative for various tick illnesses. The test for Alfa Gal takes longer. The result came in today as positive for Alpha Gal Syndrome. So, no red meat (beef, pork, lamb, venison, etc. or its related products like dairy, gelatin, etc). And I'm now required to carry an epi pen in case I'm accidentally exposed to one of these triggers. This may be for years or forever. So, I tell you this hoping you will take all precautions to avoid a tick changing how you live. I thought I had. But here I am. Good thing I like poultry and seafood (maybe I should summer in Maine)...stay safe out there.



This month, we're missing a CCMG gardener who was extremely helpful in suggesting content for The Thymes, but she is happy to be back on the Carolina shore "from whence she came". Good luck to Janet Russell in her new (sandy) digs!





Garden Surprise!

“Checked in our bluebird box and surprised to see so many eggs, last year we had only one.”

From Kathy Limp

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