

THYMES
CUMERLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
NOVEMBER, 2022



President: Jewell Wilhoite

What better time to give thanks for all that lingers in the final months of the year. A single perfect apple represents an entire crop of *sisters and brothers* that have nourished a family, a neighborhood, a community. The attention and focused labor throughout spring pruning, summer thinning, and carefully selected gathering have garnered a fall harvest to eagerly relish.

Is it possible that we master gardeners can feel equally proud of our accomplishments as 2022 draws to a close? Have we carefully listened to community needs and interests and set out to satisfy those with a large variety of classes offered in the Plateau Gardens? Have we provided helpful guidance to

newcomers and welcomed fresh volunteers? Did we focus on the importance of Tennessee Smart Yards during our outstanding spring Flower, Lawn and Garden Show? Have we selectively taken on new projects with enthusiasm and planning? Does the community value our knowledge and seek our involvement in answering horticulture/agriculture questions? When change became necessary, did we approach our own *thinning* with critical thinking and creative options for a successful future?

Granted that I may be a bit biased, but I think we can answer a resounding YES to all those questions. That's why I'm proud to speak of 2022 as a year of accomplishments and opportunities. The strength of our master gardener club lies with its history of engaged volunteers who readily take on challenges and offer garden-related service to all ages across the community and in the Gardens.

So, I say a big THANK YOU to everyone who has made this a great year for my term as president. I'm gratified with the *harvest* and look forward to upcoming plans for 2023!

Welcome new officers: President—Mike Barron, Vice-president—Rhoda Hiller, Secretary—Rita Reali, treasurer—Glenda Wisdom

Sue Partch: Turkey Talk



November, the appropriate month for turkey talk. We have had a few turkeys in our yard here in Tennessee, but on the Vermont hilltop we saw them **frequently**.

In the winter, they would be on the picnic table right outside the living room window, eating the birdseed scattered there for the ground feeders. Small groups of young jakes would show up in the meadow, in the yard, on the driveway. Several times, we'd surprise groups of hens and their poults on the crest of the driveway hill with the result of squawks, flapping, flying and running of all sizes of birds every which way. In the summer, we'd have what my husband called *periscope* turkeys; feeding in the tall meadow grass, ever so often a turkey head would appear, turn this way and that checking the surroundings, and then disappear again.

In another open-door story (see earlier newsletters), our ever watchful cat often liked to lie across the front door threshold. One summer day, a group of hens and their poults crossed the front yard. Suddenly, a mother hen noticed the cat and took a few steps toward the doorway, as she loudly told the cat exactly what would happen if it even thought about chasing one of her young brood. Lecture finished, the hen rejoined her group as they moved away toward the woods. The cat didn't even so much as twitch an ear.

The best turkey observation time was in the spring during breeding season. On one occasion, several hens fed at the edge of our yard. So, of course, there was a tom nearby showing off his breeding plumage--and, yes, it looked just like the pictures. My husband was filming this rare sight when one hen decided she was ready to mate. The tom accommodated right there in front of us. However, both to the naked eye and on film, the mating discretely took place obscured by a tree, so all we saw was her head and his tail. More turkeys on the way.

Margo Carrol: Growing Winter Veggies

Here's whats growing in my garden.

Beets, turnips, kohlrabi, pok choy, arugula, kale, spinach and lettuce.



I grow vegetables all year round. My favorite vegetables, like beets, turnips, and Kohlrabi, are grown in the winter. Lettuce and greens such as spinach and arugula grow well in cooler weather. When temperatures dip down below freezing, I'll put row covers on. These lightweight fleece-like material *blankets* let the sunshine in and also keep the heat in. With just a little effort, you can enjoy homegrown salad all winter.

I start the plants in my garage under basic LED shop lights. After the plants have grown to have a few sets of true leaves, they get hardened off; and when there's a week or so of good weather forecast, they get planted out in the garden. If you'd like to give it a try, I usually have extra plants started, and I'm happy to share.

More Margo: CCMG Clothing

January 20th we will be placing our Master Gardeners spring clothing order. If you are interested in ordering any of the items, please contact Margo Carroll 931-202-4438 or email margosky2012@gmail.com

Janet Coe: PDG Decorations

Thank you to everyone that donated holiday extras to help with the seasonal attire on our herd of cows. Stop by the PDG when you get a chance; they are looking utterly festive!

A huge shout out to Conrad Welch for the recycled trees and wreath, and seamstress extraordinaire Linda Glenn for her wonderful talents. The girls are rocking their new look!!

Have a moo-ey Christmas everyone!

Meet Our Master Gardeners

By Rosie Drechnik

Carol Burdett

Carol Burdett was born in Chicago, grew up in Illinois, met and married her late husband, Bob, and eventually moved to Indiana. They moved to Crossville in 1973, which she remembers had only one stoplight at that time! Of note is that Carol designed and oversaw (was the main contractor) for the home they built and in which she still resides. She has 2 sons and 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and a great, great grandchild. Carol always had pets, including horses for 50 years until about 4 years ago. She currently has one dog and 3 cats.

Carol was a full-time mom to her 4 children, helped with the family jewelry business in Indiana, and eventually became a mail carrier in Crossville where she had a rural route for 23 years. She recalls having the first route in Fairfield Glade with approximately 150 people. She currently works at *Threads of Hope* overseeing the home décor area 4 hours a day, 6 days a week, stating she felt she needed to be around people.

Carol became the first Certified Master Gardener in Cumberland County in 1998. She remembers that there was no landscaping in the curriculum at the time. All classes were taught by University of Tennessee personnel. When asked what her favorite part of CCMG has been, she stated the friendships. She has been involved in numerous projects over the years. Here are some of her accomplishments: President of CCMG 2009, 2010, and 2018. She participated in the original development of Plateau Discovery Gardens and was the leader in developing and planting the first garden in 2005.

In addition, Carol designed and chaired: landscaping the Art Circle Public Library, Old City Hall, Brown Elementary, Centennial Park, Downtown Depot including our Crossville Christmas tree, welcome signs at the airport, United Fund Building, 6 homes for Crossville Housing Authority, and Downtown Crossville's first Friday's Children's program. She was the editor and publisher of the statewide monthly newsletter for all Master Gardeners, called Taking Root (there were over 1600 subscribers). She was one of 11 members of the MG state advocacy board who helped run the statewide MG program for 4 years until Dr. Natalie Bumgarner was hired. Carol made many videos for local TV which now can be seen on YouTube and our website (CCMGA, Org.) Her gardens were featured on the Volunteer Gardener program.

Carol also has taught many classes and led field trips of MG intern classes and various organizations for about 6 years on her beautiful property. She enjoys landscaping, especially ways to do so that decrease weeding, such as using mulch, newspaper, wood, etc.

When asked what Carol would like to see in the future for CCMG, she stated she hopes to see the Spring Garden Show return and that our involvement in the Discovery Gardens continues.

Speaking of her hobbies of gardening and service, she quoted columnist Ann Landers who said, *Service is the rent we pay for our space on earth.* (It looks to me like Carol has more than paid her debt!)

Carol's property was damaged during the tornado of 2006, at which time more than 600 trees were lost. It was during the clean-up process in 2009 that her husband Bob was tragically killed when a tree fell on him.

When asked if there was anything else she wished to share with us, she stated that she starts each day at 4:00 a.m. with chocolate ice cream and coffee and has done so for 30 years.

What an amazing lady and a true treasure for CCMG!

Mike Barron

Mike and his wife Donna moved to Crossville from Michigan in 2009. They had purchased their 20-acre property in 2007. Before retiring, Mike was the director of HR for Whirlpool where he was employed for 31 years. He oversaw training, rather than the hiring and firing aspect of the position. He also did consulting. Mike has a masters degree in Organizational Development.

Mike and Donna are the proud parents of a son, William, and a daughter Jennifer. They have 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Mike became a certified Master Gardener in 2017 and has been involved from the beginning. He was the chairperson for the FLAG show which, as we all know, turned out to be a 3-year commitment thanks to Covid! He is on the Umbrella committee and does a great deal of work out at the Gardens. As far as plans, Mike will soon take over the gavel as the president of CCMG, I for 2023. He is already busy leading and organizing groups to discuss the direction the club wishes to take in the future. When asked which part of the intern program was his favorite, he quickly stated turf grass. Some of the best parts of being a Master Gardener for Mike are the Garden and the people.

When asked what type of gardening he enjoys, Mike stated that he is enjoying learning about and placing shrubs as he landscapes his property. He does not consider himself an *expert* in any area but does have a bit of experience with raised bed gardening and is on the *who you gonna call* list for raised beds.

Mike enjoys the hobby of woodworking and is fortunate to have a large woodshop on his property.

Something unique about Mike is that he and his wife lived and worked abroad once the children were gone. They lived in Singapore for 3 years and also lived in China and India.