

# THYMES

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

MARCH, 2023



### President: Mike Barron

Thank you to all of the Master Gardeners who showed up to help with the Arbor Day tree give away. We had a great turnout, and although not warm and sunny, the weather was really not too bad. There was certainly an educational aspect to the day, as I heard and saw lots of discussion about trees, size and growth rate. I was able to answer a few questions, but only a portion of what I was asked. I believe that for next year, we should add a simple information card by each tree name and ask our MGs to read up and be ready to answer questions. In addition, many MGs picked up trees with the intent of fostering them for our Fall Tree, Shrub & Bulb sale. Of course, the fear is that like cats, if you feed and nurture them for a few months, you might decide to keep them. That's okay.

Tennessee Smart Yards will still be part of our mission this year. I will be speaking to Fairfield Glades Residents on TNSY April 12th and doing a class in June. During this event and others, we will have sign-up sheets so that MGs can visit properties and offer ideas to add TNSY inches to residents' yards. I really enjoy doing these assessments and hope that we will have other MGs volunteer, as well. You might want to read up and get prepared. How *smart* is your yard?

## April 4 Member Meeting @ 1 pm

For the Meeting in April, we will try something different. The meeting will be held at 1 pm, and we will not have a potluck dinner. We will have the business meeting and then discuss MG projects. What is the project? What should be considered in planning for the project? Would you like help on your project? I just happen to know a bunch of really talented gardeners, and others that like to learn by doing, so share your projects and the fun.

### NEWS FROM OUR GROUP

#### Sue Partch: The Colors of **Spring**.

Ignoring the crocus in my yard, the first real sign of spring for me is seeing random bright yellow patches of early daffodils from the car. Some are in yards but most, and my favorites, are the ones in fields and banks along roadsides. I wonder...are they leftovers from long gone homesteads, toss-aways, random plantings, naturalized survivors from wind-blown seed?

Next to catch my eye are the forsythia. Starting with a small spot of yellow here and there on a leggy bush, they become a mass of brightness whether solitary or, better yet, long rows. At the same time, the rest of the daffodils wake up. Big patches of several shades of yellow, white with splashes of oranges are in many yards. And, oh yeah, the lawns are greening up--some with golden dots of dandelion.

Then, I notice the whitening trees. The Bradford pears are in bloom....everywhere! A bit of pink shows up; magnolia buds are unfolding, followed by the redbuds which are most definitely PINK. As I look further, several kinds of bushes are putting out some green.

The final stamp of *Yes, it's spring* will be something that first registered with me sitting on my front steps on that Vermont hillside--the reddish blush of the maples. Trees put on a lovely display of pastels: yellows, pinks, creamy whites, even orange and purple, plus the seemingly endless shades of spring green. I'll be on the watch for them as I travel around, first along the roadsides and then on up into the hills.

Goodbye tree skeletons....for now.



Janet Russell: Lorenzen Farm Field Trip

Several Cumberland County master gardeners made the trip on March 8th to Lorenzen Family Farm in Dayton, Tennessee. The former cow pasture was a beauty to behold! Thousands of tulip bulbs have exploded into colors of the rainbow everywhere you look. We came home with several beautiful bouquets.



Once the tulips are gone, the tulip bulbs can be dug by lucky customers--\$15.00 for all your back can stand. Sunflowers and then wildflowers will be planted once the bulbs are gone. These, too, will be available for picking later in summer.

More fun to come!

## Carol Lorenc: Why all the fuss about Arbor Day?

I'm confused (not an unusual phenomenon), why all the tree celebrations in March in TN? For years, I have celebrated Arbor Day on April 22. So I looked it up and found that Arbor Day in TN is officially the first Friday in March. In fact, in 1875, Tennessee became one of the first states to adopt this special day. In 1925, the Tennessee legislature set *Bird, Flower and Arbor Day* on the first Friday in April. In 1946, it was changed to the first Friday in March. This Tennessee state law calls for educators, civic societies and government officials to create a *better understanding of nature and the importance of protecting wildlife, planting and cultivating flowers, and setting and protecting trees*. It is also a day when cities acknowledge their Tree City USA status.

Crossville was named a 2021 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to effective urban forest management. Crossville achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: forming a tree board or department, creating a tree-care ordinance, having an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita, and holding an Arbor Day observance and proclamation. The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. This information was taken from 3/10/22 Courier Journal.

Historically, J. Sterling & Caroline Morton started planting trees on the barren plains of NE when they moved there in the 1854. In 1872, Morton proposed a state-wide tree planting holiday, resulting in over

a million trees being planted. Three years later, (Morton's birthday) April 22 was selected as the official date for Arbor Day. However, in TN the legislature changed it to the first Friday in March, which may coincide with better tree planting weather in TN.

But why are master gardeners helping to give away trees on March 17th? Again, there is a National Tree Day (August?), but it seems the TN Environmental Council sets the **TN Tree Day** for the 3rd Sat. in March. The good news is that our TN Tree Day is the largest community tree-planting project of its kind in America! And, the focus is on giving away and planting NATIVE TREES. So, I'll plant some trees in March and maybe a few more in April. We can never plant too many trees!

Bravo to those master gardeners who helped distribute native trees on March 17!

## Alan Baker: Website Update

**Website:** Just a reminder that the latest version of the CCMG directory is available online on our website via the Members Only page. Other members-only information including financial reports, minutes, forms, the UTMG guidebook and more are also available via that page. You can access that page via the drop down [Resources] menu available on any website page. Or...make this URL a "favorite" or "bookmark" and you are there in one click:

<https://www.ccmga.org/members-only>

## UPCOMING CROSSVILLE ACTIVITIES:

### Friday at the Crossroads

Crossville has the green light from the Crossville City Council for road closures for 2023. Following are the scheduled city celebrations downtown.

April 7

June 2

August 4

October 6

### Crossville in Bloom: Friday, April 7 from 4 to 8

Master gardeners will lead local children in potting up their own take-home pansies. Based on last-year's turnout, a variety of organizations will provide color and goodies. One participant even gave away loaves of bread as advertising tokens. The evening is an opportunity to mingle with visitors and talk about our many gardening pursuits. Show up to enjoy the evening and support the event.

Call or email Jewell to directly volunteer. Phone: 931-202-2633 or [wilhoitejewell283@gmail.com](mailto:wilhoitejewell283@gmail.com)

