

# THYMES

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

JUNE, 2023



Days of Daylilies

President: Mike Barron

Master Gardener volunteers have been amazing this year. Thank you all for what you have done and what I know you will be doing going forward. Your work is all appreciated, hopefully educational and earns you volunteer hours. Win-win-win!

My Sunflowers are growing. I planted about 1000 seeds in early May and then trusted *Mother Nature* to keep them watered. She has been a little spotty in her watering duties, but they are coming up. I put in

three varieties of sunflowers which grow at three heights, 60-72", 65-75" and 84" with the hope that they will grow in tiers and be visible above the natural growth in the field.



### July 11 Member Meeting

Since the first Tuesday in July is on July 4, our meeting will be an evening meeting held the next Tuesday, July 11 in the Country Store. The potluck dinner begins at 5:30 with a Red/White/Blue theme. The speaker will be Sid Morgan talking about "What you missed by not attending the conference".

During the business meeting we would like to hear updates on any of your projects. Bring some pictures of your projects if you can.

As usual, we are always open to feedback on this or any other topic. When we try new things and do not get any comments from members, we assume that the changes have been well received and, thus, will be continued. The Board loves to hear positive comments, but really needs to hear the negative ones, too. Speak up!

## Master Gardener Articles

### Sue Partch: Signs of Summer

As the song says, *June is bustin' out all over*. Everywhere you look, there are flowers, green leafy things, people, bugs, outdoor events. In spite of a couple of chilly nights and lots of rain, summer is here; even the calendar says so now.

Trees and bushes are in full leaf, looking fresh and bright. Undergrowth is thick. Spring flowers are fading and being replaced by lilies, annual beds and gladiolas. The orange daylilies, skinny-stemmed, blue chickory and, my favorite, Queen Anne's lace are the current roadside flowers, although there are still lots of daisies. Clovers and vetches are starting to bloom. Grasses and weeds are already going to seed. The fuzzy, pink mimosa tree flowers are out, and there are lots of tall yucca stalks in bloom.

Although some roadsides have tall vegetation, many have had a first mowing. Lawns, parks, and cemeteries are getting mowed regularly. Those brown garden patches have tidy rows of green plants and farm fields have corn up--some knee high already. The first haying is done and in.

People are outside: homeowners on lawnmowers; gardeners weeding and pruning and watering; families and/or friends gathered for a barbecue. Kids waste no time, riding bikes, running in a yard, or playing in a recreation area. Motorcycles have been dusted off so they can again rumble along the roads. Yard sales, the farmer's market and flea markets are back.

June nights bring out the creatures. Lightening bugs, or if you prefer, fireflies, make little spots of flashing light in the night. (Do you still try to catch them?) Bright green June bugs buzz and bump until they fall upside down with wiggling feet, making them go round in circles on their backs. If you're lucky, a luna moth may flap at a lighted window and perhaps show up on your garage door next morning. If you're really lucky, you may hear a whip-poor-will—a bird that repeats its name over and over.

Summer is definitely alive and active, and we gardeners welcome all the sights and sounds that fill all our senses.

### Barbara Moore: A Swinging Home, Perhaps

I love to provide, for the most part, a home, nest, or a secure place for various species at my house. Every year I try to have flower hanging baskets without a lot of success. This year I planted 2. One is pretty much dead, but the other one looked pretty good. I thought, *at last I have been successful*.

Three days ago, when I went out to put up the bird feeder, I noticed some dirt on the porch under the hanging basket. Upon further investigation, I saw that the flower is starting to die and there is a hole in the soil! Not sure who has decided to take up residence in the plant, but welcome to the Moore's porch.



### Daylily Tea in the Gardens

The second Tea in the Gardens, highlighting a fantastic living display of blooming daylilies, brought together an appreciative audience who delighted in treats and colorful surroundings. The history of just how the engaging swath of daylilies came to be sited, along with the care and maintenance necessary to identify and showcase such beauty, provided requested substance for interested participants. The audience added their own sparkle and humor to the afternoon. A glowing success!





## Susan Maruska: Landscaping the Sportsman Club

A few Master Gardeners, Julie Lesko, Elaine Hanson, and Susan Hufford, and I, along with members of the Fairfield Glade Sportsman Club created 2 Gardens at the club. One is a border along the parking lot consisting of Maiden Hair Grass, Lavender, Russian Sage and Candlestick Speedwell. Another bed is alongside the clubhouse and consists of a variety of annuals and perennials. We also asked Don Hazel to install 6 Bluebird houses.



The clubhouse is open Thursdays and Saturdays if you would like to take a look.

## Jewell Wilhoite: Bird Stories

To continue my saga about the brown thrashers, who are my heroes for kicking leaves and eating bugs, let me say that two of them successfully nested in a farkleberry (or sparkleberry) bush. These are rather large birds to be building a nest within a 5x4' (?) shrub. Well, it seems I was not the only observer of these busy parents among the debris. A three foot black snake (rat snake) coiled around an empty pot had its head raised and was also watching. I spotted it as I looked out a bedroom window. The birds

were clever enough to enter their nest from the back. Hence, the snake failed in locating its prey. I lingered long enough to see the snake move on.

In later days, I saw the fledgling chasing a parent for continued feeding. Good news!

Next month, I may tell you about the flicker which attacked an ant hill. Those ants don't give up easily.

### **Linda Ferris: Change of address**

Linda has moved and wants everyone to note her new address. Please make the change on your directories.

100 Samaritan Way - Apt. 237  
FFG 38558

Phone number remains the same (cell only).

**Many thanks to all who contributed to this month's newsletter. You're a part of history.**