



Kentucky Extension
Master Gardener
Fayette County

Newsletter

Spring 2023

Fayette County Master Gardener's
Association

Newsletter Committee

Susan Miller, Chair
Mary Miller, Co-Chair
Sharon Bennett
Judi Daniels
Pamela Dorrel
Beverly Fortune
Augusta Hosmer
Susan McDaniel

Dues for 2023 of \$20.00
with checks to FCMGA can
be sent to:

Kay Fisher
1905 Port Royal Ct.,
Lexington, KY 40504

We learn from our
gardens to deal with the
most urgent question of
the time:

How much is enough?
Wendell Berry

Do You Know?

This early season plant is
not very popular with
gardeners, but all parts are
edible and it can be used
as tea, is a food source for
beneficial insects, can be
used as a dye, and has
health benefits.

The Prez Sez:

Greetings! It was great seeing so many of you at the Fayette County Master Gardener Association annual meeting. The most important and thrilling thing that evening was to thank Susan Umberger in a very humble way. Those of us that have had the opportunity to work with and alongside Susan know how much she has contributed to the program here in Fayette County.

Jamie introduced the graduate members from the Master Gardener class held this past fall. Hurray!! for the new master gardeners. Welcome to the Fayette County Master Gardener Association, and we are all looking forward to working beside you and creating new acquaintances.

Some of you know that Kevin and I have moved from our home in Harrods Hill to The Village at Rabbit Run. Our bookcases and cabinets are installed, and we are beginning to unpack our books. As we are running out of room, I look at my gardening books and think about how I will use them and if I should keep them. The answer is always "YES." I may not have the yard but I can always read and dream about being 30 years younger and being an active full time gardener. Oh well, I can always walk down the street and visit Helena Taulbee and her wonderful yard. All in all, I feel very fortunate and look forward to seeing more of you this next year.



Happy Gardening,

Ann



Loreley Iris (1909) photo by Graham Rowles

Upcoming Iris Tour

Everything's coming up irises in Graham Rowles' garden when he opens it for our Master Gardener tour in May.

Provisionally titled "Colors of the Rainbow: Everything you Wanted to Know About Cultivating Irises," the tour will be our first educational opportunity (CEU) of the year. The visit is scheduled for the second weekend of May, but watch for an email with details as the month gets closer. Coinciding with the garden

visit in Midway is the Bluegrass Iris Show on Saturday, May 13 at 7 pm at Lexington Green. Graham says the show "is always worth attending." His garden will also be used as the training site for the iris show judges. Don't miss this one – more information will be coming soon! Pictured at the top left is **Gypsy Lord Iris**, the Dykes medal winner in 2015.

Photos are from Graham Rowles. Look for more iris pictures from Graham throughout the Newsletter.



Hot Peaches Standard Dwarf Bearded Iris

THE BOARD WANTS YOUR IDEAS!



Wednesday, March 15 from 10 to 12

Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way

We would like to hear your ideas on the Fayette County Master Gardener Association. Help us shape and strengthen your Association! We would love to know what you think about volunteering, social activities, and continuing education opportunities. Please join us for a Board Listening session – we'll have coffee and donuts and chat about how we can rebuild after COVID. RSVP by text or phone message by noon on Tuesday, March 14, to FCMG Board President Ann Henry at 859-552-8211.



MASTER GARDENER ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The Annual Meeting for 2023 was held on January 22 with approximately 60 members and guests attending. We all enjoyed being back together after weathering Covid and we shared a delicious meal.

Kay Fisher presented the Association budget and

Ann Henry reported that current officers would continue for next year which was approved by the membership. We were delighted to welcome the class of 2022 Master Gardeners to their first annual meeting. **Photo by Susan McDaniel.**



Master Gardener Class of 2022

By Pam Dorrel and Augusta Hosmer

Each of us had some type of gardening experience and desire to expand our knowledge of plants that brought us to the master gardener class. Jamie and Tyson taught us about so many areas of horticulture. We got lots of lectures and slides, a manual, other reference materials, field trips, and hands-on activities. We were also able to ask plenty of questions, which were always met with enthusiastic, knowledgeable answers.

Photo by Cheri Fouts

Jamie and Tyson are so passionate it's no surprise almost every session ran a little past the two hour mark. Learning from and meeting people who so clearly love what they do (and the community they do it for) made all the difference.

Nisa Hanna says, "My favorite topic covered was probably the annual and perennial talk Jamie gave. I love ornamental gardening, and it was a blast learning about a lot of stuff I'd encountered, or even had grown, but had no idea what it was!" Nisa works at Ashland Terrace and helps with their cutting garden.

Fran O'Connor was surprised when her favorite turned out to be learning more about trees. She says, "Who knew the tiny Tree Finder would have so much information in it? Walking through Ashland trying to identify trees and collecting leaves made the experience even nicer."

Some of us had to unlearn misinformation, but we all learned so much in the process. David Emerson reflected on this process with: "What I found most interesting was the video presentation of the passage of water through soil, demonstrating that what I always did (putting rocks and stuff in the bottom of pots before adding substrate) was not actually necessary or a good idea."

Pam - My personal favorite topic was plant propagation. Jamie brought in plants and potting materials and showed us various ways to propagate different types of plants. It was way easier than I thought it would be. I learned even more about botany, and I really enjoyed the hands-on experience.

Augusta - I also really enjoyed the botany lessons. I've always been a science nerd at heart, and the way that all our instructors presented information made class hours fly past. If I'd had them for professors in undergrad, I probably would have ended up going into horticulture instead.

"The entire series taught me how everything in nature is interconnected and what happens and could happen if one of the connections is broken," said Debbi Carter.

Steve Moranville said the program "was an intense education in horticulture, to say the least, but 8 weeks of 'basic training' does not a master make and there is much still to learn." He gave Jamie and Tyson an "A" for awesome.

Esther Mach summed it up best: “I absolutely loved the entire experience. Jamie and Tyson's lectures were top notch and so thorough and informative!”

Together, we persevered through the lectures, homework, quizzes, and the final test and graduated to become apprentice master gardeners. Now, the class of 2022 is ready to get out into the dirt and help our gardens grow!

Volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners

To maintain your status as an active Master Gardener, you will need to perform 20 hours of volunteer activity and must also attend 10 hours of continuing education, which can include Toolbox classes, as well as tours and other activities planned by the Continuing Education Committee. The volunteer activities and contact information are listed below and we have a long list of possibilities that should please everyone. If you're unable to fulfill your volunteer and continuing education requirements, you can be a member of the Fayette County Master Gardener Association in what we're calling an Emeritus membership. You will receive the Newsletter and other notices and can attend activities such as the annual meeting, the summer picnic, and tours or other activities. Emeritus members will not be eligible for volunteering. Please let anyone who might be interested in Emeritus membership know about this option. Dues of \$20 can be sent to Kay Fisher, 1905 Port Royal Ct., Lexington, KY 40504 with checks payable to FCMGA.

For those who are continuing as active Master Gardeners, to record your hours go to: <https://fayette.ca.uky.edu/MG> - the log on link is near the bottom of the webpage. Once you log in, you will need to click on Certifications on the right hand side – then you will be able to add your hours! Volunteer opportunities include:

FOODCHAIN



There are several options here, including working at the indoor aquaponics “farm” which grows a variety of greens and herbs, plus tilapia. You might plant seedlings, pick and pack greens or help with cleaning while learning how this system works. In the separate kitchen area chores include packing snacks and assembling ingredients for the 3,000 free meals FoodChain distributes each week. You can volunteer on weekdays or Saturday mornings. The volunteer contact is Becca Taylor, beccataylor@foodchain.org or go to the website to schedule volunteer hours at foodchainlex.org

GROWING COMMUNITY

Traditionally held on Derby Day at the extension building, this onetime event is a popular daylong series of educational presentations by Master Gardeners on a variety of garden topics. People from the community check in and receive a card they get punched at each presentation once they complete it. A full card qualifies a person for a bag full of vegetable plants and other fun garden items. Great chance to interact with the community. To volunteer, contact Esther Mach at emach2@email.uky.edu

NEWSLETTER

Write articles, suggest ideas, help with layout, and proofread the four issues that come out in March, June, September and December. We are currently trying to change the Newsletter format, so lots of your input is needed. It's a good way to get hours without leaving your desk. To volunteer, contact Susan Miller at gourmetgoats@msn.com

SEEDLEAF

Guided volunteers help with planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting at several urban gardens near downtown. Seedleaf has many other programs and once you get involved, there may be other opportunities – such as working with school gardens. Sign up for volunteering on the website seedleaf.org or contact social@seedleaf.org





BLUEGRASS FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

After a two-year hiatus, the show is back and scheduled Saturday June 11 and Sunday June 12 at Masterson Station Park during the Lions Bluegrass Fair. Dozens of volunteers work on various committees the day of the show on Saturday – registration, classification, staging, grooming, placement, etc. It sounds complicated, but it all happens pretty fast and runs smoothly, plus it's a lot of fun to see all the entries. After the show on Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday, the show is open to fair visitors. Docents are needed to work shifts during those hours when fair visitors are allowed in. To volunteer, contact Linda Klink windaklink@gmail.com.

EXTENSION BACKYARD HERB, VEGETABLE, AND FLOWER GARDENS

Help plant, mulch, weed and water the gardens behind the Extension building. Each of the three gardens has a separate team leader and a different schedule, as well as allowing independent work. The schedule and duties vary, depending on the time of year and the weather. To volunteer, contacts are: Vegetable garden - Pamela Dorrel, pldorrel@gmail.com, Flower garden - Sharon Bennett, sbennett@gx.net Herb garden - Judi Daniels, judidaniels1954@gmail.com.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

This committee plans activities such as garden visits and presentations so that Master Gardeners can earn their 10 educational hours. Those hours were waived last year but are required in 2023. Our first activity for 2023 will be a visit to Graham Rowles' iris garden in Midway. To volunteer, please contact Graham Rowles, growl2@uky.edu.

Upson Downs Japanese Iris, photo by Graham Rowle

FARMERS' MARKETS

Volunteers work in pairs to chat with market visitors and hand out information about Fayette County Extension Horticultural programs which you take with you. Chair Sarah Lee says you can be as aggressive (extrovert!) or as passive (introvert!) as you like, but it's all fun and a chance to meet and mingle in the bustling market community. It's more of a friendly back and forth, but if customers happen to ask a really tough gardening question, you can always take their name and have Jamie or Tyson give them a call. Typically, volunteers work at the Saturday downtown market and Sunday market on Southland Drive. To volunteer, contact Sarah Lee at solee1973@gmail.com.



REFOREST THE BLUEGRASS

Reforest is part of Lexington's Urban Forestry Office. The biggest volunteer activity for Reforest is a tree planting day on Saturday April 15 from 9am to 1pm Hisle Farm Park, 3551 Briar Hill Road. They invite volunteers of all ages and have music food and fun! On April 22, Reforest at Home provides free tree seedlings. To find out more about volunteering, email urbanforestry@lexingtonky.gov or call [\(859\) 258-3404](tel:8592583404).

ARBORETUM

The Arboretum has a wide variety of volunteer activities from weeding and maintaining garden areas to helping out with school tours in the Children's Garden. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the Volunteer Packet at <https://arboretum.ca.uky.edu/volunteer> and send your completed forms by email to Arboretum@uky.edu or drop them off in the Dorothea Smith Oatts Visitor Center (Mon.-Fri., 9am to 4 pm).

Answer to Do You Know? From the first page is the common dandelion!

**Minutes
Fayette County Master Gardeners Association Board Meeting**

Dec. 16, 2022

Present: Ann Henry, Susan Miller, Graham Rowles, Kay Fisher, Susan McDaniel, Judy Worth, Mary Miller

I. The meeting was called to order. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

II. Reports

A. Treasurer

Kay Fisher presented reports on budget activity for August through the end of October 2022 and a proposed budget for fiscal year 2024, with cash on hand of \$17,581.23 and a 6 CD due to mature in January of over \$10,000. The budget report was approved. The membership dues fee was waived for 2022, but members will be expected to pay dues in 2023 and we can collect dues at our annual meeting. Funding for the Master Gardener scholarship was approved, although no one has applied for this for many years.

B. Nominating Committee

The Board discussed the need to present a slate of officers. We discussed the possibility of continuing with current officers until the Articles are filed and a final revision of Bylaws is completed for approval by the membership. Graham Rowles and Judy Worth are the current Committee members. Graham officially requested that the current Board continue and be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting in January.

C. Newsletter

The MG Winter Newsletter was distributed on December 10. Mary and Susan will be looking for new people to join the Newsletter Committee. We plan on publishing the Spring issue in mid-March. We generally try to get the Newsletter out two or three weeks after the Board meetings so will follow that schedule and plan to include budgets and Board minutes.

III. Old Business

A. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for Nonprofit Status.

The Association needs to file articles of incorporation with the Kentucky Secretary of State to insure our nonprofit status. Currently a copy of these can't be located, either in FCMGA files or on the Kentucky website. Filing will give us official status as a 501(3)c. Ann's husband is an attorney and is looking into the matter and Ann will report back. We agreed to postpone discussion of the Bylaws for another meeting and will do an further search for the Articles.

IV. New Business

A. Annual Meeting

The Board voted to approve expenditures for annual meeting and will have it catered instead of the usual potluck. Susan McDaniel will be coordinating. Graham proposed that the Board help Susan in any way and she will call on us as needed. Susan will schedule a meeting with Jamie to talk about the annual meeting, including door prizes. We decided not to do the traditional method of giving out raffle tickets based on volunteer hours since volunteering options have been more limited than usual. We will plan to do a swap table for plants and gardening books. Graham and Judy will work on logo wear, and Kay has the name of a store we could work with. We expect that Jamie will present several options for volunteering at the meeting.

Submitted by: Mary Miller, Secretary



**New Moon Iris, Dykes medal 1973
Photo by Graham Rowles**