



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener  
Fayette County

# Newsletter

## Summer 2022

Fayette County Master Gardener's  
Association

### *The Prez Sez:*

#### Newsletter Committee

Susan Miller, Chair  
Mary Miller, Co-Chair  
Susan Daole



PHOTO BY SUSAN DAOLE

Greetings everyone,

This has been an interesting spring. The cool days and evenings kept the spring flowers fresh for an extended period of time this year. Now the peonies and roses are starting to bloom. On the other hand, the cold temperatures and wet days made getting the garden planted a challenge.

**Dues will be waived for 2022. The dues paid for 2021 will be applied to 2022. If you have already paid 2022 dues, you can request that your payment be returned, or it can carry over into 2023. Contact Kay Fisher at ([kkay19@gmail.com](mailto:kkay19@gmail.com)) if you want reimbursement.**

Master Gardeners anxiously look for the first opportunity to get outside and put our hands in the soil. At least once a day we go examine our gardens to see what is popping through the soil. We can even see the lettuce and beans grow while we watch. Hopefully everyone is enjoying those spring vegetables and looking forward to the tomatoes, beans, corn, squash or whatever you plant for summer enjoyment. I believe that harvesting and eating the food we plant is a one of the most rewarding experiences in life.

#### Do You Know?

**What is America's national tree?**

Look for the answer later in the Newsletter.



*Happy Gardening,*

*Ann*



## Get To Know Our New Horticulture Tech

by Susan Miller

If you need a little boost to go out and plant more trees, just have a chat with Tyson Gregory, our new Fayette County Horticulture Technician. He has special admiration for trees, especially the oak tree because it contributes so much to our lives and to wildlife. “Just think of the ecosystem services the oak tree provides,” says Tyson.

One species can support more than 200 kinds of insects, and acorns are consumed by many kinds of wildlife. Not to mention advantages of cooling houses and streets and just being downright beautiful. His other favorite subject is native plants and their interaction with insects.

Tyson’s interest in horticulture developed early on, but like many kids, he wanted to be a marine biologist. The biology part stuck and he became captivated by plants on a guided wildlife walk. “I saw how many species of ferns were out there, and that’s when I decided what I wanted to do,” he said.

So Tyson jumped right in. During high school in Madison County he wasn’t even a member of FFA, but he took over their greenhouse for two years. At U.K. where he majored in Plant, Soil and Horticulture Science, he was president of the horticulture club. Before coming to U.K. Extension, he oversaw the new two-acre Children’s Garden at the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Columbus, Ohio. He is a self-described plant geek and he can mesmerize you with plant talk. All that information needs to come out, he jokes, so he loves to teach. As for hobbies, he likes to read and hike, but says he might need some different hobbies because they both seem to lead him right back to plants. And speaking of living things, Tyson has a cat named Dilbert.



We look forward to many plant chats with Tyson. And as he says, “Y’all go plant a tree.”

## News from Jamie Dockery

Jamie shared the following Volunteer opportunities for 2022:

**The Arboretum**

**Seedleaf**

**FoodChain**

**Reforest the Bluegrass**

**Extension office gardens**

**Board and association service**

If you are interested in any of these, contact Jamie at [jamie.dockery@uky.edu](mailto:jamie.dockery@uky.edu) If there are other volunteer needs, Jamie will recruit for those. To retain active volunteer status, volunteers must serve twenty hours in one of these activities. Continuing education hours are not required to be reported this year.

Master Gardeners should enter their volunteer hours at:

<https://pacecommunity.azurewebsites.net/PersonAccount/Login?organization=1034>

Another way to get volunteer hours is to write an article for the Newsletter or have us write up something on your garden. Contact Susan Miller at [gourmetgoats@msn.com](mailto:gourmetgoats@msn.com) if you're willing to share your garden.



## Carrie's Farewell

When Carrie Spry moved to the Clark County Extension office in her home town of Winchester as Horticulture Extension Agent last year, our Executive Board voted to send her a few thank you gifts for her outstanding work in the Fayette County office.

We all knew Carrie's love of tie-dye, so the board picked out a tie-dyed knitted hat and scarf and a canvas tote bag, along with a gift certificate and presented it from all of the Fayette County Master Gardeners. It was gift wrapped and dropped it off at the Clark County office while Carrie was at a horticulture conference in Lexington, so needless to say, she was totally surprised.

In return, Carrie sent the following letter:

*Hello President Ann and Vice-President Clare! I hope you all are doing well. I also hope Jamie is being good to you all and behaving!! I came back from the State Extension Conference to find quite the surprise for me. WOW!! You all are so very generous! I'm quite sad I wasn't here to visit with whomever it was that dropped it off, but maybe I can visit you all soon. Below I have a message of thanks for you all, the board, or the group as a whole...I just wasn't sure if you all preferred who and how we shared it with them. I can email it to the group as a whole, I can email it to the board as a whole, or if you all want to share it in your next newsletter that's fine too. Just let me know who you all think is best and we can get it done. Thanks!*

*THANK YOU!!! Just two words, but really the only words I can come up with at this moment. I was so surprised by the generous gift from you all, the Fayette County EMG's, that it merely put me at a loss for words. I will never take for granted my time spent with you all and the relationships I made with many of you. I am so blessed to have been able to work with you all and I hope to be able to visit you all from time to time. Again, thank you so much for the gift and wish you all the very best in everything you do.*

*Take good care of Jamie for me! Reach out anytime to say HI and wish all of you the best!*

## A Spring Garden

by Susan Ross Daole



We bought our house 40 years ago, and when we bought it there was absolutely nothing in the yard, just a chain link fence covered with poison ivy, wild grape vine, and privet. We both love to garden and my husband Joe loves to build things, and every year we work on a different project. Fences one year, a garage, a pond, rock gardens, a gazebo and there are years of things we still want to work on.

It is mostly a spring garden, at its peak the third and fourth weeks of May. Our birthdays and anniversary are then and all of my favorite flowers bloom at that time. We always give each other plants for presents. Most of the peonies are from my mother. I love the old fashion self-sowing flowers and I have a special weakness for blue, so every year I collect the seeds of Columbine and Nigella and scatter them around. I am excited about a blue Larkspur I got from fellow master gardener Jane Peters. The foxgloves are biennial, so every year I tuck young plants into empty spots.

A view towards the house. Dianthus Bath's Pink in lower left corner. On the house there is a Hydrangea anomala petiolaris, and a Schizophragma hydrangeoides roseum just getting ready to bloom. Lavender will open soon. The rose is the thornless Zéphrine Drouhin. For years we had a New Dawn Rose there that would blanket the fence, but we lost it to rose rosette, and the thorns were so fierce we wanted to replace it with something easier to prune.



The alliums bloom at the same time as the peonies, but often lose their color while the other flowers are still in bloom. I have been known to spray paint them purple to keep them looking fresh.



Another real treasure is this fern leaf Peony from Jane Peters. This is the first year it has bloomed.

Answer to Do You Know?

America's national tree is the oak tree.



The ferny foliage just getting ready to bloom is Nigella Miss Jekyll Blue aka Love in a Mist. Have not spray painted the Alliums yet. The dark red Peony is a Red Cap Peony from my Mom.

This is Coral Charm Peony. It always blooms a few weeks before the other peonies, and is my tallest. Every year I try to attend the all day Plant Trials Symposium at the Cincinnati Zoo, and everyone who attends gets a free plant. One year the keynote speaker was well-known horticulturist Roy Klehm, and he gave us all one of these.



They don't photograph well, but in January and February, the Woodland Garden is covered with masses of snowdrops and purple crocus, followed by drifts of Virginia bluebells, Celandine poppies, bloodroot, trillium and Brunnera, ferns and pulmonaria ( from Jamie) and much more.



Wisteria Amethyst Falls in bloom along the driveway.



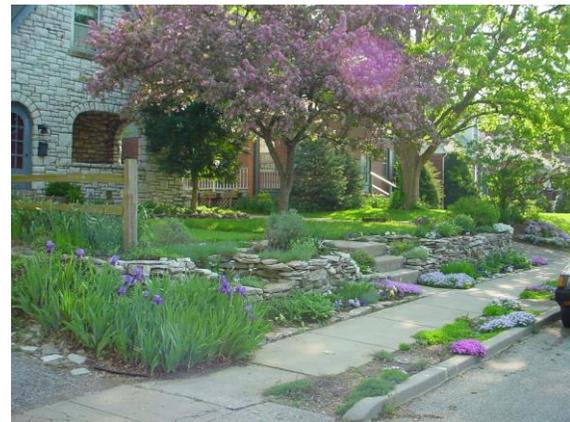
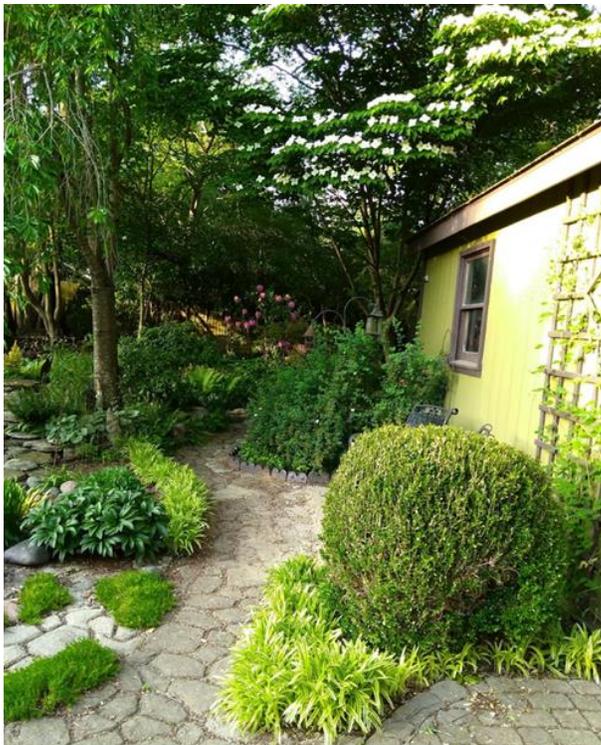
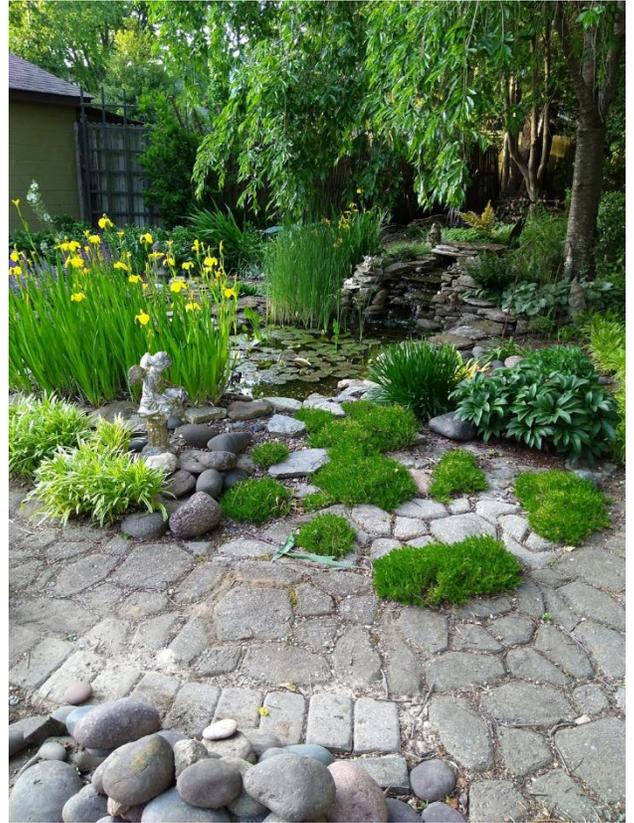
I like to try new things but am often ready to change them in a few years. This bed of hens and chickens and blue glass beads has been the edging for the Salvia for a while, but I am thinking of something new.

We always have something in bloom year round. This Camellia is a winter blooming variety that usually blooms in late March, so I get very tense about late freezes. I would like to plant more Camellias but would select fall blooming varieties. Celandine wood poppies are just starting to emerge.





Two views of the pond. Jamie's Allium Millenium next to his hellebore. A weeping cherry above the pond.



Crabapple and phlox in bloom.

Cornus Kousa in bloom behind the garage. The Hellebore left center is one I got from a Toolbox Class. I know many people roll their eyes at the ubiquitous variegated liriop, but I love it as a foolproof border for paths.



The front rock garden phlox, pansies, and candytuft.



The rock garden later in the season

I know it's a sin to plant morning glories and I expected to be struck by lightning, but they were glorious that year. I can't help loving them, even though I know I shouldn't. It made me so happy every time I saw it. Forbidden love!



Hope you enjoyed the garden tour. Maybe next year you could all come visit.

Author/Gardener Note: The garden does not look like this every year. Last year was a lovely one. Some years, like this year, we are relocating massive amounts of plants and working on construction projects and it looks pretty hideous. By next spring, things will have settled in again and I think it will be a good year.