Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you cozy and warm – probably thinking about your gardens. Even though there is snow on the ground and the temperatures are a bit low, we can still plan and dream about gardening. I’m sure some of you have seen early bulbs begin to make an appearance – the sight of tulips or snowdrops is always encouraging to me. I’m sure many of you have received seed catalogs or have been researching new seeds and/or plants and are getting ready to put those ideas into play. Sometimes the planning is as much fun as the planting and the sight of beautiful plants (well, almost!). Hopefully, you will be able to continue working with an EMG group this year, or maybe you can sign-up for a new group and meet other neat people. The committees will be meeting soon (if they haven’t already!) to plan for this year. If you’re not part of a committee, but would like to be more involved, there is a listing of the EMG groups on the extension web site. There will be many opportunities in the coming months to share your knowledge and work with others who have a keen interest in growing flowers, veggies, etc. There will be a new class of future EMGs beginning this fall – maybe you would like to be a mentor or come to some of the classes to encourage the new group. Also, there are exciting continuing education opportunities being planned. I think gardeners (especially EMGs!) are some of the nicest people around – who doesn’t enjoy getting their hands in the dirt and watching seeds and plants grow and become fruitful and beautiful? I look forward to working with all of you during the coming year as well as meeting new people. Let’s make this a special year for the Fayette County Master Gardener Association!

~Brenda Owen, President
2016 Grant Announcement

Lexington Council Garden Clubs is pleased to announce that proceeds from June 2015’s Garden Tour are now available. We encourage projects that aid in protection, conservation, and enhancement of natural resources and civic beauty and use native species. Projects for private use or for-profit concerns will not be accepted. Past recipients include school gardens, neighborhood association plantings, Jr. Master Gardeners, and other educational and beautification endeavors. Application deadline is March 14.

Go to www.lexgardenclubs.org for more information

REMEMBER—PLEASE SEND YOUR PHOTOS

Please send photos of your committee at work throughout the year. Send all photos to Doris settles, dorissettles@gmail.com. Thank you!

New EMG Requirement

Beginning in 2016, Kentucky Extension Master Gardeners will be required to fulfill ten units of continuing education (CEUs) annually, in addition to their twenty volunteer hours. The state Extension Master Gardener coordinators have implemented this requirement in order to bring Kentucky EMG programs into line with national guidelines which require ten CEU units. These units can be fulfilled through a variety of classes, lectures, and field trips, as outlined in the document included in this newsletter. Throughout the year, EMGs will be updated with additional activities approved for CEU requirements. See pages three and four for details.

Visit www.fcmga.org to view MG Executive Committee Board Minutes, as well as a calendar of upcoming events!

Annual Meeting Highlights

Many thanks to all EMG volunteers for completing over 5,200 hours of service in 2015!

Congratulations to the following for reaching over 100 hours: Sharon Bennett, Nancy Davis, Ann Henry, Marlys Higginbotham, Karen McVey, Christine Parsons and Nan Starkweather; over 150 hours: Jeanna Jordan and Ellyn Katen; over 200 hours: Debbie Johnson and Doris Settles.

Kudos to all who made the annual meeting such a success!

Photos and information submitted by Brenda Owen
Fayette County Extension Master Gardeners  
Continuing Education Requirements

To maintain certification for participation in the program in subsequent years, a Fayette County Extension Master Gardener (EMG) must recertify annually by following these guidelines:

Complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours of volunteer service each year.

Complete a minimum of ten (10) units of approved continuing education, in addition to required volunteer service hours, each year.

CEUs earned in excess of the minimum annual ten-hour requirement may not be carried over to the following year.

Completed hours for attendance at Continuing Education events, such as toolbox, lectures or field trips, shall be reported as CE units (CEUs).

Time spent on Continuing Education committee work or volunteering at a Continuing Education-sponsored event shall be counted as volunteer service time.

Guidelines for Continuing Education (CE)

Each year the CE Committee of the FCMGA shall publish a list of approved continuing education activities for that year and the number of CEUs to be awarded for each activity.

Additional approved activities may be offered during the year, as they become available. These will be communicated to the membership by email.

How to report CEUs:

EMGs will record their attendance at a CEU-approved activity by signing the registration sheet provided at each event.

EMGs will also report their CEUs on the drop-down menu on the online Volunteer Hours Report, under the category “Continuing Education Events (CEUs).”

Examples of continuing education may include the following:

Educational programs, lectures and field trips sponsored by the Continuing Education Committee, Toolbox classes, State EMG Conference

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2016 Approved Continuing Education Programs and Field Trips

(EMGs will be notified by email once the number of CEUs assigned to each activity has been determined. Also, EMGs will receive email notifications of new CE opportunities as they become available.)

Field Trips

May 11  Henkle’s Herbs and Heirlooms, 10:00 a.m.

July 13  Greenhouse 17 (Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program farm), 10:00 a.m.

October 18  Locust Trace AgriScience Center, 9:15 a.m.

Fall Lecture

October 11  Allen Bush of Jelitto Perennial Seeds, “Perennials That I Can’t Be Without”, 6:30 p.m., Fayette County Extension Office

Workshops

The Continuing Education committee is in the process of planning lectures on topics of general interest to EMGs. Details will be sent via email at a later date.

Toolbox Classes

There will be no fee waiver for EMGs wanting to fulfill CEU requirements with Toolbox classes, but at least six Toolbox classes will be offered at no charge to attendees.

State Extension Master Gardener Conference

EMGs may receive credit for their attendance at this conference. The amount of CEU credit to be received will be determined by the University of Kentucky EMG Coordinator or the host counties.

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It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

~ Charles Dickens, Great Expectations