



Spring 2021 Newsletter

Fayette County Master Gardener's Association

Association Dues

Dues for 2021 were due by Feb. 28, 2021. Please send a \$20.00 check payable to FCMGA, to:

Kay Fisher
1905 Port Royal Ct,
Lexington, KY 40504

Newsletter Committee

Susan Miller, Chair
Mary Miller, Co-Chair
Sharon Bennett
Nancy Boland
Stacy Decker
Debbie Johnson

To plant a garden is to
believe in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn

Message from the Board

Hello Fellow Master Gardeners,

The theme of this Spring issue is hope and rebirth, told through photos of beautiful plants and gardens. Gardeners understand those concepts – we are those crazy folks who plant bulbs in the cold ground in November with confidence that spring will reward us with sunny yellow daffodils for years to come. We take tiny seeds, carefully cover them with dirt, and three months later, we have sunflowers towering above us. We fight fungus and blight and frost and drought, and we keep on gardening.

We're all sending hope and love to our President Susan Umberger who is fighting leukemia. Susan has all our best wishes, and this issue is dedicated to her. You can send her cards at 3345 Braemer Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40502. Due to immunity issues, she isn't able to have visitors, gifts, flowers, or even calls, but she welcomes your good wishes through the mail.

Susan has so often shared beautiful photos of her plants and garden and so in this newsletter we want to feature photographs from Board members and a special feature on Graham Rowles' Blueberry Hills Garden as a reminder that winter will soon be behind us and it will be gardening season again.

During the past year, Fayette County Master Gardeners Association has missed many of the activities that make us such a strong organization. We've continued projects whenever it was safe to do so – the Extension Garden crews kept planting and weeding and donating food to local charities. Our very successful food drive helped people in need. We have new Internet stars: Jamie, the on-camera talent, and Carrie, the producer behind the scenes. The activities that were suspended will be back – at some point, there will be a new class of Master Gardeners, and we'll have potlucks and Committee meetings and see actual human beings instead of Zoom images. Each vaccine shot in someone's arm brings us closer to that goal.

The Board is continuing to conduct business and keeping our organization going. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you – it will happen. As the ice melted from all of our recent storms, many of us were rewarded with daffodils and tulips peeking up through the soil. Spring is almost here!



DID YOU KNOW? THE FUSION OF THE STAMEN AND PISTIL INTO ONE STRUCTURE DISTINGUISHES THIS FLOWERING PLANT FROM ALL OTHERS? WHAT IS IT? (HINT: SUSAN UMBERGER!) LOOK FOR THE ANSWER LATER IN THE NEWSLETTER.



Nancy's favorite caladium



Striking color combo of poppies and peonies
Nancy Davis



Didn't Mother Nature do a good job?
This is a surprise volunteer - Susan Miller



A pop of color with a red hot poker
Nancy Davis

A Passion for Iris



The Dykes Medal is the highest award of the American Iris Society. It is given each year to the best newly hybridized cultivar. In some years the award is not made because there is no iris judged to be of sufficient quality. The medal was established in 1927 in memory of William R. Dykes (pictured to the left), an iris hybridizer and Secretary of the British Horticultural Society from 1921-1925, who was killed in a motor accident on December 1, 1925 at the age of 48. The irises pictured are from the garden of Graham D, Rowles, who has the aspiration of having had all of the Dykes Medal winners bloom in his garden before the centennial anniversary of the award. Graham's iris pictured below are all winners of the Dykes Medal.



Earl of Essex – Fall Blooming



Clarence Iris - Reblooming



Dwarf Iris - Stop and Stare



Starwoman Iris
One of Graham's favorites



Concertina Iris- reblooming



Florentine Silk Iris

Graham Rowles' Blueberry Hill Gardens – stone walls and fountains add visual interest to Graham's collection of iris, daffodils, and a host of other perennials.



Tiered stone walls showcase perennials



Looks like the koi know Eli!



A peaceful gaze through the daylilies at the the tricking fountain



Popcorn cassia - this intriguing plant has the faint aroma of burnt popcorn in the fall.



I made a little teepee to protect a praying mantis ootheca egg mass. She laid it too high up on my daylily capes and I was afraid it would be destroyed over the winter. - Kay Fisher



One of my new favorites – the Toad Lily, a shade loving perennial covered with dozens of tiny beautiful flowers. – Mary Miller



Ann Henry's stunning daylily



Raised beds – Ann Henry

Dogs in the Garden



Lizzie looking cute in the bleeding hearts



Winnie posing as garden art

Debbie Johnson's beloved dogs

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Eli with Starwoman and
Brown Lasso Iris

**Answer to Do
You Know?
Orchid**



What could bring more joy than a garden and
a puppy named Liza? - Susan Miller

FCMGA WILL MAKE A DONATION TO GLEAN KY IN HONOR OF THREE OF OUR MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY



Lauri Gathof-Rosamond, class of 2018, worked an incredible number of hours as an enthusiastic Master Gardener and Champion Food Volunteer despite her vision impairment and other health problems. She jokingly said that she spent more hours at the extension office than at home, but she loved staying busy and being involved in the world around her. One of her sisters said Lauri loved dragons, cats, travel and Disney, and she had a big heart. Not surprisingly, she talked a lot about kindness on her Facebook page. Lauri studied business and social work at UK and was involved with community projects for recycling and creating art out of discarded items. Many of us didn't realize she had four children and six grandchildren. She was 65.

Lauri (seated) with her Master Gardener friends

Because Lauri loved dragons, and was involved with a fundraising project called DragonWynds, we thought she would like this quote:

I care not what comes after; I have seen the dragons on the winds of morning.

Ursula K. LeGuin

The Farthest Shore

Barbara Mabry and Jocelyn Dickson will be remembered by some of the original Master Gardener members, though they were no longer active in the organization.



Barbara Mabry, February 23, 1931 – December 16, 2020, was a teacher, editor and published poet who loved books, dachshunds, collecting antiques and beautiful things, and the Kentucky countryside. After teaching English and working in several other positions at UK, she retired as Director of Admissions for the UK College of Medicine. Whenever you plant a flower, pet a dog, or read a passage of poetry, think of Barbara's rich life.

Jocelyn Hill Dickson, April 21, 1936 – December 17, 2020, graduated from Randolph-Macon Women's College in 1957, a background which served her well as an investor and founding member of Lexington Women's Investment Club. She was an animal lover, painter and gardener and was known for her good sense of humor. She enjoyed traveling, horseback riding, cooking, needlework, and bridge.