

# NEWSLETTER

FAYETTE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S ASSOCIATION



## The Prez Sez...

We are so excited to welcome the new class of Extension Master Gardeners! I hope to see many new and veteran MG's at the Fayette County Master Gardener Association annual meeting on Sunday, Jan. 26, from 4-6 PM at the Extension Office. As usual, we will share a meal together and there will be lots of time to meet and catch up with your fellow gardening enthusiasts and a little bit of Association business. Watch your email and the Facebook group for more details!

Coming up to the end of the year, I want to say a big thank you to all of you for your hard work and participation this year. (Don't forget to log your volunteer and CE hours! You can find it here: <https://bit.ly/3Lw2bsK>. Directions are on page 4 of this newsletter.) We are excited about some new volunteer projects starting in 2025!



*Happy Holidays, everyone!  
See you in January!*

*Susan McDaniel*

## Newsletter Committee:

MARY MILLER, CO-CHAIR  
SUSAN MILLER, CO-CHAIR  
JUDI DANIELS  
PAMELA DORREL  
SUSAN MCDANIEL

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**THERE IS NO GARDENING WITHOUT HUMILITY. NATURE IS CONSTANTLY SENDING EVEN ITS OLDEST SCHOLARS TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CLASS FOR SOME EGREGIOUS BLUNDER.**

**ALFRED AUSTIN**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2024

BY PAM DORREL

So much was new for this year's Extension Master Gardener training. Twenty-four new Apprentice Master Gardeners made it through the class. They had a new instructor this year, Reena Martin, our Fayette County Horticulture Assistant, and they had an updated Kentucky Extension Master Gardener training manual.

They all did great with the homework, quizzes, insect collections, leaf collections, and the final exam. This year's students also did presentations as part of their overall score. Reena gave a special congratulations to Carol Young who scored the highest on the final exam, and with extra credit, she also had the highest total score with 103 points!



The students in the Class of 2024 are Maggie Akins, Elvia Lopez Bautista, Lily Chow, Holly Christian, Fred Downs, Julie Dunn, Antonia Gates, Ken Human, Rochelle King, Mary Ellen Lowe, Marilyn Matern-Bratz, Charles Myers, Cristen Pascucci, Nancy Potter, Beth Rosdatter, Elizabeth Ruh, Brad Sandidge, Julie Thro, Sharon Upchurch, Kirsten Updike, Tiffany Wilkins, Kate Wray, Carol Young, and Debbie Zafren.



Reena Martin presents a special award to Carol Young as Jamie Dockery looks on



Kristen Updike shows off her insect collection



**Cave Hill Cemetery**

## THE NEW KENTUCKY GARDEN TRAIL: A BOTANICAL ADVENTURE

BY PAM DORREL

In late September Team Kentucky rolled out another fun statewide “trail” program, but this one is especially suited for Master Gardeners to enjoy! It’s called the Kentucky Garden Trail. This new trail invites you to visit and discover twelve of the most beautiful gardens and arboreta across Kentucky. You can collect stickers and earn a prize for completing your mission.

According to its website, “The Kentucky Garden Trail was created to knit together a journey of gardens, forests, and experiences in the Bluegrass... The Kentucky Garden Trail represents the state’s promise to the preservation of natural sites and green spaces providing an experience of discovery to all visitors from casual walkers to green-thumbed enthusiasts.”

The trail features twelve locations around the state, which include The Arboretum State Botanical Garden of Kentucky (Lexington), Baker Arboretum (Bowling Green), Bernheim Forest and Arboretum (Clermont), Cave Hill Cemetery (Louisville), Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve (Goshen), Doran Arboretum at Murray State (Murray), Liberty Hall (Frankfort), Mahr Park Arboretum (Madisonville), University of Louisville Arboretum (Louisville), Waterfront Botanical Gardens (Louisville), Western Kentucky Botanical Garden (Owensboro), and Yew Dell Botanical Gardens (Crestwood). Each location is exquisite and distinctive in its own way and each one offers a unique experience for Master Gardeners.

### Our Gardens

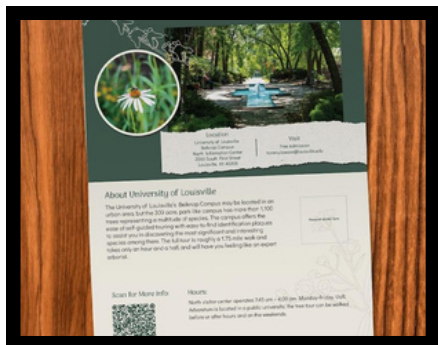
1. Doran Arboretum at Murray State
2. Mahr Park Arboretum
3. Western Kentucky Botanical
4. Baker Arboretum
5. Bernheim Forest
6. Waterfront Botanical
7. University of Louisville Arboretum
8. Cave Hill Cemetery
9. Yew Dell Botanical Gardens
10. Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve
11. Liberty Hall Historic Site
12. The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky



The website at <https://kentuckygardentrail.com/> invites you to plan your trip and explore more of Kentucky’s rich cultural history and natural tapestry by offering itinerary guides with suggestions for places to eat or stay during your visit

The Find A Garden page lets you search participating locations by type, such as arboretum, display garden, research garden, sculpture garden, greenhouse, conservatory or natural area. You can also search based on your desired activities or interests, whether it’s hiking and walking, outdoor displays, indoor displays, natural areas, workshops and education, birding, plants for sale onsite, guided tours, dining onsite, art and sculptures, event spaces, handicapped accessibility, historic architecture, pet friendliness, gift shop, volunteer programs, or children’s activities.

The Learn Tab: Events & Education features activities like Yew Dell Botanical Gardens (Crestwood) Yuletide events taking place throughout December 2024. The Learn Tab: Projects & Research provides information about projects at some of the locations. For example, in 2021 Mahr Park Arboretum (Madisonville) created a natural play area whose centerpiece is a statue called Circle of Peace which portrays children from all walks of life forming a circle, holding hands and enjoying playing with each other.



Whichever garden you visit first, be sure to ask for a free Kentucky Garden Trail Passport Journal (pictured on the left) at the visitor's center or gift shop. Then at each location, collect a stamp to stick in your journal. The passport journal can also be downloaded from the website.

Once you've visited and collected stamps from six gardens, an employee from the sixth location can sign the Kentucky Garden Trail Prize Form in the back of your passport journal and give you a gift to reward you for your progress. You'll hang on to your passport journal, though, and once you've visited and collected stamps from all twelve gardens, an employee from the last location can sign your journal. Then you'll upload a photo of the page with both signatures on the website and you'll receive a Kentucky Garden Trail grand prize in the mail. You can choose between a Kentucky Garden Trail t-shirt or tote. You get to keep your passport journal as a memento of your garden adventures across Kentucky.



Western KY Botanical Garden

For more information about the Kentucky Garden Trail contact Oldham County Tourism at (502) 222-0056 or [director@touroldham.com](mailto:director@touroldham.com). You can also go to <https://kentuckygardentrail.com/> or visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyGardenTrail/>. Bookmark the website and go back to it as a travel reference whenever you want to visit any one of the best gardens in the state for inspiration or education or just to relax.



Kentucky Extension  
Master Gardener  
Fayette County

**LOG YOUR HOURS BY THE END OF THE YEAR!**

Jamie and Reena want to remind you to record your Master Gardener volunteer and continuing education hours before December 31, 2024. In late November there were only 16 master gardeners that had recorded the required annual hours. To remain certified, you must have 20 volunteer hours and 10 continuing education hours recorded by January 1, 2025. To add your hours go to : <https://ukyfayette.pacecommunity.net/PersonAccount/Login>

Click the link above. Log in and hit enter. Choose "My Certifications" from the menu on the left. Scroll down past the "certification progress" section and you'll see where you can report continuing education or volunteer hours. You will click the link at the top that says "add more volunteer hours."

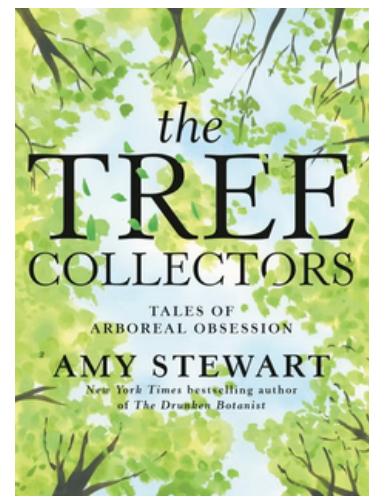
If you are experiencing challenges in uploading hours that you have completed this year, please let Suzann Smith know at [srsmith@email.uky.edu](mailto:srsmith@email.uky.edu) or email Reena at [Reena.Martin@uky.edu](mailto:Reena.Martin@uky.edu)

## IF YOU LOVE TREES COLLECT THEM!

BY PAM DORREL

If you're looking for a great gift for your favorite gardener or just want a delightful book to enjoy this winter, I highly recommend *The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession* by Amy Stewart, New York Times bestselling author of *The Drunken Botanist* and five other plant related non-fiction titles.

Stewart writes about fifty unique individuals who have spent their lives pursuing rare and wonderful trees in a variety of ways. They're not the type of folks who do it just to earn a living or make a profit. Each one has their own individual obsession that drives them. No two collectors are alike, but they all do it because they love trees.



Each story is only four or five pages long and includes Stewart's watercolor portrait of the collector. She organized each collector into one of ten categories based on their primary motivations:

Some collectors are Healers, like Janusz Radecki who planted eight acres of trees and shrubs on the grounds around the nursing home for chronic mentally ill patients in Poland where he works. The residents do much of the work and have experienced amazing benefits from garden therapy.

Some collectors are Ecologists, like Dean Swift who grew up learning how to collect native wildflower and conifer tree seeds in his parents' tree nursery in southern Colorado. He has taught family members how to collect seeds and continued the tradition through five generations.

Some tree collectors are Artists. They are an abstract artist who sculpts topiaries, a conceptual artist who grafted forty fruits onto one tree, a sculptor who has collected over a thousand bonsai trees, a photographer who chronicles ancient wild ginkgo trees, and a filmmaker who documented the tale of a billionaire oligarch who spent over six million dollars to buy 200 unique, huge, ancient trees from citizens in his country. He dug them up, transported them at great expense, and replanted them on his estate in a dendrological park he created just for the trees.



Some are Curators, like Helton Muniz who cultivates over 1,600 species of fruit, 1,300 of which are native to his homeland in Brazil. He trades seeds with other collectors around the world. He's on a mission to collect 2,700 more Brazilian fruit species.

Some are Educators, like "unauthorized forester" Joey Santore who was so disgusted with the inappropriateness of the trees that were planted in public spaces in his California city (most of them were dying) that he began cultivating and planting trees along municipal parkways under-the-radar. He posts his activities on YouTube but keeps his identity secret.

Other tree collectors are Community Builders, like Alemayehu Eshete who builds stone fences around the diminishing forests that surround the churches in northern Ethiopian villages. He works with the citizens to protect their individual forest habitats and prevent encroaching agriculture.

Some are Enthusiasts, like Sara Malone, a wealthy tree lover who is often the highest bidder at botanical garden and plant society fundraising auctions. She's always searching for rare and unique trees, and she appreciates that she's able to support botanical non-profit organizations.

Some are Seekers, like Sue Milliken and Kelly Dobson who both worked in botanical industries, lived on opposite sides of the U.S., and only knew of each other through online sales (she bought plants from his nursery). They met on a seed-collecting trip to China and it was love at first sight. They got married and started a nonprofit that collects and conserves rare and endangered trees and plants.

Some are Preservationists, like Joanie Cooper who started a conservancy when her friend and fellow orchard society member was diagnosed with a terminal illness and worried that his orchard would be lost. She has cloned and preserved over 4,500 varieties of the apples her friend had grown.

Some are Visionaries, like Dave Muffly who was hired by Steve Jobs to be the arborist for 175-acre Apple Park in Palo Alto, California. With climate change in mind, he planted over 9,000 trees, as well as an orchard of stone fruit and apples.

Sprinkled throughout the chapters are several helpful lists and definitions about complementary subjects like tree terms (for the novice tree lover), types of grafts, bonsai size classifications, private tree collections you can visit, a society for every tree, "moon trees" you can visit, and corporate tree collections, which includes Buffalo Trace Distillery on its list.

The author also included some short how-to sections. One is about how to plant a tiny forest, like Shubhendu Sharma of India, who systemized the Miyawaki method and turned his engineering job at a Toyota plant into a way to reforest the world, one backyard or parking lot at a time. Other sections briefly explain how to make a leaf collection, move a large tree (and some surprising facts about the process), how to catalog (how to collect without owning a single tree), and tips for doing "unauthorized forestry".

The author uses her own beautiful watercolor illustrations of trees, tree scenes, specimen drawings, botanical patterns and other ephemera throughout the book, which makes it decorative and gives it a handmade feel.

*The Tree Collectors* is available for check-out at the Lexington Public Library (they have three copies). I had to return my copy to the library because a few others have already reserved it. But, I found this book to be so inspirational and uplifting that I ordered a copy from Amazon for myself. I'm looking forward to sitting among some trees and reading these stories again any time I need to readjust my perspective to the world around me or when I just need to recharge.



## SAVE THE DATE!

**Fayette County Master Gardener's  
Association Annual Meeting  
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2025, 4PM  
Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way**

Join us for a festive annual meeting! We will be sharing food and fun as well as conducting some Association business. Significant others are welcome! Please RSVP by January 15 to Susan McDaniel at [suziemac01@aol.com](mailto:suziemac01@aol.com), or text or call 859-230-0162.

**Activities: Socializing, Raffle, Swap Table (bring any plants, seeds, equipment or books you no longer need to share with your fellow gardeners!)**

**Come prepared to have your photo taken for the member directory!**