

The Memphis Horticultural Society  
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www.memphishorticulture.org

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## Non Main Stream

I think one of the nicest compliments I ever got was from a long ago friend that told me “I just love talking to you and Paul! You are so Non Main Stream.” He continued to explain, probably because he didn’t think I understood what he meant and wanted to assure me that it was a compliment, not an insult. “You guys don’t talk about the weather or the score of last night’s football game. You guys talk about, well, Non Main Stream stuff.” “You know, like philosophy, or the meaning of life, or finding your passion, or your animals, your friends, your family, or gardening.” “You talk about things important in your lives, not just mumbo, jumbo to have something to say.”

How cool is that? I hadn’t ever really thought of it that way but once he mentioned it I realized he was right. While Paul and I have very different personalities – he would talk to a stump and I am much more reserved until I know someone, we are both Non Main Stream.

We are also Non Main Stream in our garden designing. We both have a very distinctive style and are apt to push the boundaries of normal more than most. It is exciting for us to find a new plant and see if we can make it fit into our chaos, oh, I mean garden.

So, why not give Non Main Stream a try? If you have a crazy idea you think might work – go for it!

*No Intention of Changing ,  
Kay Little*

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# Clippings

July 2011

## Stunning Vignettes and Killer Combination (Using Must-Have Plants for Tennessee gardens)

Always entertaining, **J. Carol Reese**, horticulture specialist at the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service in Jackson will be our speaker in July.

Carol’s topic will be “Stunning Vignettes and Killer Combinations (Using Must-Have Plants for Tennessee Gardens).”

July’s meeting will be 7:00 Tuesday night, July 5 at Memphis Botanic Garden. Bring a horticulturally-minded friend.

## Dogwoods: How to Choose, Transplant, Maintain and Other Tidbits.

—by *Ginny Fletcher*

On Tuesday evening, Dr. Mark Windham, Plant Pathologist and professor from the University of Tennessee, entertained the MHS members and guests with his vast knowledge of dogwoods, other woody ornamentals and down-home humor. He discussed the most important things to consider when planting dogwoods:

**Site Selection:** Dogwoods do not like wet feet. They are acid lovers. Do not plant near a foundation or walkway They prefer shade. Full sun encourages borer problems and scorching

**Planting:** Do not plant too deep. The top of root ball should be slightly above the ground. Clay soil should not touch the trunk of a dogwood (or an azalea). Dogwoods are best purchased and transplanted in November or December.

**Maintaining:** Good site selection and proper planting is the key and once that is done, **Leave It Alone!**

**Challenges for Dogwoods in the Memphis area:** Spot Anthracnose: causes dingy small blooms but does not hurt the tree.

Leaf Scorch: caused by heat and shallow roots; but does not hurt the tree

Powdery Mildew: prevalent since 1994

Dogwood borers: enter tree through wounds on the bark – need to spray the trunk only waist high in late March and again in mid June

Dogwood twig borers: cut off the infested twig and destroy.

**Plant Choice:** Some excellent choices for the most resistance to powdery mildew and spot anthracnose are: *Cornus florida* 'Jean's Appalachian Snow', *Cornus florida* 'Karen's Appalachian Blush', and *Cornus florida* 'Kay's Appalachian Mist'. In the pink family, try *Cornus florida* 'Cherokee Brave'.



*Dr. Windham and Dale Skaggs at the Dixon.*

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**PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER**  
—ALLAN WELLS

He covered several areas of research the plant pathology group has charted under his leadership the research by the plant pathology group has worked to develop dogwood lines resistant to both dogwood anthracnose and powdery mildew for the gardeners of the mid south.

Wednesday morning Dr. Windham, Ginny Fletcher and I met at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens with Dale Skaggs for a tour of the gardens. The conversation between Dr. Windham and Dale Skaggs about plant pathology was one of the most informative tours that I have ever attended. I just wish I could have captured all the information so I could share it with all of the membership.

Please come out and support next month's speaker, Ms. Carol Reese from the UT Experimental station in Jackson.

September has been selected for an indoor picnic with our starting time moved to 6:00 pm with the Speaker to follow at 7:00 pm.

Thanks for all of the attendance and support.

—Allan Wells

The June meeting featured Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee Knoxville Entomology and Plant Pathology Department with a lecture and presentation covering his research about Dogwoods. His presentation was extremely informative and lively. The information about planting and care of dogwoods was well beyond just areas of research.

His professional interest and concern for the disease in woody ornamentals was presented in a direct and at times humorous fashion, keeping the full attention of all present.

## Plant of the Month:

### **Clematis Rooguchi**

*Clematis* 'Rooguchi' is a hybrid between *C. integrifolia* and *C. reticulata*. It blooms all summer long until a hard frost.

The climbing and spreading vine blooms profusely with pendant, bell-shaped blooms in deep purple. The leaves are substantial, shiny and waxy.

The plant likes full sun or partial shade. It prefers rich, fertile, humus, moist but well drained. The plant should not be allowed to dry out. Water deeply and well during periods of Memphis drought.

Keep the roots cool by mulching or by shading with companion plantings.

This clematis blooms on previous year's and new growth. It has no special pruning needs, in fact it doesn't even have to be pruned. But, if you must, prune established plants in February or March. Newer plants should be pruned in early spring leaving them about twelve inches tall. This will encourage the plant to climb.

The plant may be propagated by;

- layer branches in late winter,
- softwood cuttings in spring,
- division in spring, or
- cuttings in early summer.

The plant only reaches a maximum of six feet at maturity, so it is a good choice for container gardening. Or you may allow it to use another plant as a trellis. For example, use a red leaved Japanese maple. Imagine the display with the red leaves, purple flowers and green leaves. This vine dies to the ground in winter and emerges in spring eager to flower on new growth.

'Rooguchi' is also resistant to clematis wilt.



## **Thanks To Our Members, MHS Meet-**

Thanks to those that brought food to our June meeting:

Barbara Bounds  
Karen Damrell  
Judy Daffron  
Vickie Duggins  
Josie Elosua  
Betty Griffith  
Glynda Whitlow  
Linda Pittman  
Kathy Sammons  
Cornelia Swain

The book winner was Karen Damrell

The table arrangement winner was Tommy Whitlow.

The flower arrangement consisted of Sunflower varieties, Leucothoe, Ammi Magus 'Graceland', Astilbe 'Purple candle' Strawflower, Bachelor Button 'Blue Boy' and Pentas.

Flowers are from the Dixon Galleries and Gardens. Flower design by Donna Olswing



## **Dream Team Perks-up Tired Landscapes**

Is your landscape in need of a redo?

Submitting a photo by **August 1st** may result in landscape suggestions from a panel of the best landscape designers in Memphis.

On October 8, the Memphis Area Master Gardeners will be presenting "The Dream Team Refreshes Tired Landscapes: A Seminar for Mid-South Gardeners."

The designers will include Suzy Askew, Tom Pellet and Dale Skaggs, as well as Master Gardener Anne Riordan, (whose garden was recently featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine)

You may submit photos of your tired landscape with a paragraph explaining why one area of your landscape needs perking by August 1:

- By email to Al Cook at [al\\_nancy@comcast.net](mailto:al_nancy@comcast.net) in .jpg format with an accompanying explanatory e-mail. or
- By mail or hand to Al Cook c/o UT Extension Office, Agricenter International, Wing B, 7777 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis TN 38120 prior to August 1.)

A limited number of entries will be chosen, providing the panel with a good balance of design challenges. For further information please contact Caroline Forster at 901-384-8979.