



Presidents Corner:

Our April speaker, Mr. Robert Mayer, Director of Park Operations for the Shelby Farms Park Conservatory, shared the Master Plan for the "Park of the 21st Century."

This is a treasure right here in the heart of Shelby County and that speaks to the dedication and hard work of all of the Parks and Conservatory staff, the elected officials and the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County.

Be a part of this exciting venture; become a member, buy a tree, adopt a buffalo and/or take advantage of the many opportunities that are available for volunteers. He requested that one effort is to plant a million trees, to help with this project, the park needs 5 gallon containers to

plant the donated trees.

Next month Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee Knoxville Entomology and Plant Pathology Department will provide a lecture and presentation covering his research about Dogwoods. His research and professional interest concern disease of woody ornamentals and nursery crops, establishing resistance to dogwood anthracnose, biotechnology of ornamental plants, histology of anthracnose infections and breeding disease resistance in flowering dogwoods, Chinese dogwood, and hybrids. They are working on developing lines resistant to both dogwood anthracnose and powdery mildew, powdery mildew resistant dogwoods with unusual growth or bloom characters and C. kousa trees resistant to drought and heat.

Please invite all of your friends and families that love Dogwoods to the meeting.

Due to the scheduling of a speaker for June 2011, the picnic usually held in June will not be offered. I have received request to schedule it later in the year, September was suggested as the month. Please provide any input to the board members or me.

Thanks for all of the attendance and support.

Wizard's Garden Opens With Family Night

The Wizard's Garden, a collaborative partnership between the Memphis Botanic Garden and the Memphis Horticultural Society officially opened to the public on Friday, May 20, 2011 with a family picnic and tour.

MHS members Allan, Barbara, Emelia and Ginny helped with the event as other members enjoyed the event with their families.

There were lots of fun activities for the kids including visiting the Potions Classroom, the Wand Workshop, and Herbology Lab. Witches and wizards-in-training learned what it takes to be a plant wizard.



Julie Baltz, Outreach Coordinator of MBG, stirs up a witch's brew in the herbology lab.

MBG provided drinks and cookies. Families picnicked on the grounds while enjoying plenty of live entertainment. Witches and wizards were among the visitors to the new additions to My Big Back yard.

Congratulations to all the MHS volunteers that helped to make Memphis the Hogwarts of the South.



Wizards in training Maddy and Matthew Kelley create their wizards' hats.

A Great Park for a Great City: Mayer Excites May's Meeting with Shelby Farms Plans

—by Ginny Fletcher

Our May speaker, Mr. Robert Mayer, Director of Park Operations for the Shelby Farms Park Conservatory, shared the Master Plan for the "park of the 21st century."

The Shelby Farms Park Conservatory's vision is: "To give rise to a celebrated 21st century park that defines and shapes a great city." The park is truly unique; boasting of 4500 acres, 12 landscapes, plus the Greenline. The Wolf River Pedestrian Bridge provides southern accessibility (when not under water) and is truly unique in design. The 60 acre Patriot Lake will be expanded in the near future to approximately 100 acres sporting a healthy aquatic environment. The Shelby Farms Greenline is a paved walkway, bike trail and/or jogging trail that literally connects Memphis mid-town to the Park and offers a safe environment for our citizens to enjoy the great outdoors.

The recent opening of the Woodland Playground provides an exciting venue for kids of all ages to enjoy the Park and the playground, along with exposure to the many varieties of plants that surround the playground.

The Buffalo herd has presented many challenges; however, at present, they are committed to a healthy herd and much progress has been made.

We truly have a treasure right here in the heart of Shelby County and that speaks to the dedication and hard work of the Conservatory staff, the elected officials and the citizens of Memphis and Shelby County. There are several ways that you can be a part of this exciting venture; become a member, buy a tree, adopt a buffalo and/or take advantage of the many opportunities that are available for volunteers.



SHELBY FARMS PARK
CONSERVANCY

Thanks To Our Members, MHS Meetings Are Events!

Thanks to those that brought food to our May meeting:

- Barbara Bounds
- Jean Brown
- Vicki Duggins
- Ginny Fletcher
- Barbara Gavrock
- Betty Griffith
- Tina McWhorter
- Cornelia Swain
- Marie Ricossa
- Teresa Williams

Design by Donna Olswing.



The refreshment drawing winner was Ginny Fletcher

The flower arrangement consisted of Snap Dragons, Boxwood, Japonica Roses, Pittosporum, Pussy Willow and St. John's Wart

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Clippings

June 2011

MHS Welcomes Dr. Mark Windham in June

Do you want to learn more about treating diseases in woody ornamentals and nursery plants? Do you have a love of dogwoods? If so, June's meeting (June 7 at 7:00 pm at the MBG) is one not to miss.

Dr. Mark Windham from the University of Tennessee will be our speaker. Dr. Windham received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University with a major in plant pathology and a minor in plant breeding.



Since his research appointment with the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, his responsibility has been research on diseases of ornamental plants. Much of his research involves dogwoods.

Dr. Windham is the chair of the UTIA Dogwood Research Team.

He is particularly proud of the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station's dogwood (*Cornus florida*) releases.

The research team is actively involved in developing dogwoods resistant to both dogwood anthracnose and powdery mildew, powdery mildew resistant dogwoods with unusual growth or bloom characteristics and *C. kousa* trees resistant to drought and heat.

An example of this line of research is 'Cornus florida 'Appalachian Spring' which was released by the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station in 1998. The tree was discovered in Catoctin Mountain Park, MD

and has unusual levels of resistance to dogwood anthracnose. The resistance of 'Appalachian Spring' was confirmed in a double blind test conducted by the J. Knighten (USFS -retired) in Asheville, NC. The tree is now being sold by wholesale nurseries in Tennessee. Discoverers of the tree were our speaker Dr. Windham, R. Trigiano, E. Graham, and W. Witte.



Annual Picnic Postponed

Because MHS had the opportunity to have Dr. Windham speak in June, the annual picnic has been postponed until September.

Profound Gifts

We have all received gifts that touched the very depths of our hearts. Many think that the more money spent, the more the gift means. Not true for me.

At the MG's Spring Fling I stopped for a moment to talk to Junus (June) Davidson about his and Punk's daffodil contest. Childhood memories assailed me as I viewed each entry and listened as June's hoarse, abused voice patiently explained each and every entry. Some I had seen, some I had not, but they all mesmerized me with their unique beauty.

Daffodils (Buttercups) as we country folk called them were more than just flowers. They were the "town criers" that announced Spring had at last arrived.

I once lived in a house where the previous, beloved, owners had planted the entire front yard in a sea of beautiful daffodils. It was a huge yard and an overwhelming spectrum of yellow met your eyes each time you walked out the door. While short lived, their effect was endless.

At the end of the Spring Fling, June carefully gathered the slightly fading entries and brought the beautiful bundle of gold to me as a gift. It took my breath away, a profound gift, one that only my memories could value so highly.

I took them home and shared them with my sister. We both cried tears of joy, reveling in the memories and their beauty.

Thank you, dear June, for a most profound, heartfelt, priceless gift.

However, Mother Nature decided not to be outdone and less than a week later one single daffodil appeared in my Mom's old Rose bed. We have no idea how it got there, but the effect was well...profound.



Blessed with priceless friends,
Kay Little

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