

The Memphis Horticultural Society  
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# Clippings

May 2011

## Dabney Turley Receives 2010 Award of Horticultural Excellence

At the April meeting of the Memphis Horticultural Society, Past President John J. Tackett presented Dabney Turley with the Award of Horticultural Excellence for 2010.

Dabney has a long history of generous volunteerism, often speaking to garden clubs and organizations about new and/or dependable plants. He is the longest-running Board member of the Memphis Botanic Garden and one of its biggest supporters, often donating specimens lacking in the collection.

Dabney was the MHS President in 2001 and always attends the monthly meetings when his demanding travel schedule allows.

Dabney has a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and started The Dabney Nursery on his 150 acre family farm on Hacks Cross Road in Germantown in 1982. In 1983, he co-founded Botanico, a wholesale tree farm in McMinnville that sells their products all over the country.

Dabney's contributions to Memphis gardens are particularly notable because of his dedication to provide reasonably priced, worthy plants that are not otherwise easily obtained. In addition to new plants and cultivars that are suitable to our growing conditions, Dabney also promotes the use of native plants seldom found at typical retail sources. With nursery trends focusing only on plants that are easy to ship and quick to sell, Dabney is a plantsman with the dedication to horticulture that is seen less and less.

The Memphis Horticultural Society greatly appreciates the long history of contributions and is proud to honor Dabney Turley with this much-deserved award.



## May's Meeting Speaker: Robert Mayer

Shelby Farms has a bright future. In fact, it is the hope of many that Shelby Farms will be **the park** of the 21st century serving as a "leading-edge, international model for design and sustainable management practices." (From the [Shelby Farms Master Plan](#))

May's speaker, Robert Mayer is the Director of Park Operations at Shelby Farms. He knows the latest and will share those plans with us at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday night, May 3 at the Botanic Gardens.

Come join in the excitement as we anticipate Memphis's exciting horticultural future!

## Spring Training

Most people have started their Spring cleaning.

Well, I have started my Spring training. Oh, by no means do I mean jogging a mile or two or pumping 50 pound weights (though I could certainly use the exercise). No, I'll be doing my Spring training with my eyes. I am going to train myself to notice something new that has "sprung" up in the landscape as I slept. It is not an easy task. But, like they say: no pain, no gain!

It has been absolutely amazing to see how much just one night can change some spot that was completely bare the day before. Trees are literally blooming as I drive by them. One flower bed will be all lavender one day and the next morning it is infused with red or gold from some other plant.

No one could ever call Mother Nature a slacker. She hits the ground (literally) running and blooming. She blows through the trees and shrubs like a hurricane of new life. It is, and will always be a miracle to me to watch the earth being reborn each Spring.

How fortunate we are to be able to witness this phenomenon, **if** we will only take the time to look. We are so blessed to live in an area of the country that is quite literally a forest. I can't imagine missing the glorious birthing of Spring if I lived encased in nothing but concrete and steel. So, I hope you will all take a little time and do some of your own Spring training. My soul is feeling more buff each day!



Keeping An Eye Out,  
Kay Little

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**PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER**  
—ALLAN WELLS

The April meeting began with Past President John Tackett presenting the annual Memphis Society Horticulture award to Dabney Turley, one of our members and a major supporter of the Memphis Horticulture Society.

The meeting's topic was a highly informational presentation by Dean Kopsell from UT Knoxville Plant Science Department. The following is a short recap:

**Your Really Are What You Eat!**

—by **Ginny Fletcher,**  
**MHS Vice President**

Dr. Dean Kopsell, Associate Professor at UT in Knoxville, certainly got our attention, at last month's meeting, regarding our food supply. Dr. Kopsell explained in depth what a phytonutrient is and what it does. The term "*phyto*" originated from a Greek word meaning plant. Phytonutrients are certain organic components of plants, and these components are thought to promote human health. Fruits, vegetables, grains, legumes, nuts, and teas are rich sources of

phytonutrients.

The following are commonly proposed mechanisms by which phytonutrients may protect human health. Phytonutrients may:

- Serve as antioxidants
- Enhance immune response
- Enhance cell-to-cell communication
- Alter estrogen metabolism
- Convert to Vitamin A
- Cause cancer cells to die
- Repair DNA damage caused by smoking
- Detoxify carcinogens

The goal of Dr. Kopsell's research program is to investigate ways to increase the phytonutrient content of food crops, thereby reducing the need for additional supplements.

By eating a variety of colorful fruits and vegetables – green, yellow-orange, red, blue-purple, and white – you are giving your body a wide range of nutrients that are important for good health. Each color offers something unique, like different vitamins, minerals, disease-fighting phytochemicals, that work together to protect your health. Only fruits and vegetables, not pills and supplements, can give you these nutrients in the healthy combinations nature intended.

Hippocrates (470-410 BC) the "Father of Medicine" stated "Let your food be your medicine and your medicine be your food."

For more in-depth information check out Dr. Kopsell's website:

<http://plantsciences.utk.edu/kopsell/kopsell.htm>

**Make Room For New and Exciting Hostas!**

—by **Larry Tucker**

Hosta gardeners suffer a perennial case of spring fever. This year is no exception with growers, nurseries and the Mid-South Hosta Society offering new and exciting cultivars guaranteed to grab your attention. There's always room in the garden for a cultivar that's just the right size, texture and color. And when it has the perfect name, you must own it!

Consider the following recent introductions, which have been made available for \$15 to \$25 through MSHS, by mail order from specialty nurseries or purchase at local garden centers. Many of these plants will also be for sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at the Hosta Society's annual Plant Sale and Garden Tour. Hosts this year are Jim and Ann Zaner, who live at 2150 Exeter Place in Cordova.

**'Beckoning'** – Large heart-shaped leaves emerge green, then turn gold with wide blue-green margins, sport of 'Blue Angel'

**'Blue Ridge'** – Large, stately, upright clump, blue-green leaves, 2010 Dixie Convention plant, sport of 'Frost Giant'

**'Blueberry Muffin'** – Medium blue, classic heart-shaped leaves, nice mounding habit, cross of 'Frances Williams' and 'Fall Bouquet'

**'Bumblebee'** – Large with heavily corrugated golden leaves, good Southern grower, seedling from 'Honey'

**'Coconut Custard'** – Small clump with red from petioles creeping into frosted yellow leaves, cross of 'Blue Cadet' and 'One Man's Treasure'

**'Crumb Cake'** – Small, flat mound of round, golden leaves, cross of 'Cinnamon Sticks' and 'Cracker Crumbs'

**'Curly Fries'** – Small mound of narrow, yellow, ruffled leaves, seedling of 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake'

**'Empress Wu'** – Enormous green leaves up to two feet across, touted as largest hosta alive, self-crossed hybrid of 'Big John'

**'Journey's End'** – Large, upright, yellow-gold leaves with ruffled dark-green margins jetting to center, sport of 'Choo Choo Train'

**'Luna Moth'** – Medium mound of dark-green, heart-shaped leaves with light-green-to-yellow margins, unregistered hybrid

**'Mighty Mouse'** – Miniature with bright-creamy-yellow margins on thick, round, blue-green leaves, sport of 'Blue Mouse Ears'

**'Mouse Trap'** – Miniature, thick leaves hold up in summer heat, best grower of white-centered sports of 'Blue Mouse Ears'

**'Rhino Hide'** – Medium, extremely thick, cupped leaves with light-green-to-yellow center and blue margins, unknown parentage

**'Tickle Me Pink'** – Medium with glossy golden foliage, red scapes, pinkish blooms, cross of 'One Man's Treasure' and 'Squash Casserole'

**'Tongue Twister'** – Cute clump of dark green leaves that twist upward, cross of 'Iwa' and 'Blue Blush'

**'Tropical Storm'** – Small mound of heart-shaped, puckered, green leaves with light-green-to-yellow margins, sport of 'Rainforest Sunrise'

**Thanks To Our Members, MHS Meetings Are Events!**

Thanks to those who brought food to share and plants for the plant exchange to the April meeting: Karen Damrell, June Davidson, Betty Griffith, Carolyn Evans, Paul Little, Gene Mangiante, Jeannine Melkent, Linda Pittman, Marty Smith, Cornelia Swain, Barbara Warren, Glynda Whitlow, and Lois Wilson. The book winner was Barbara Warren



The beautiful fresh flower centerpiece consisted of Fothergilla, Stock, Freesia, Tulips, Snap Dragons and Cedar. It was arranged by Donna Olswing with flowers from the Dixon Gardens. The drawing for the arrangement went to Teresa Williams.



As great as our meetings are, they would be even better with more participation from our members. Please bring a snack or a plant to exchange in May!



*The home of Jim & Ann Zaner will host this year's Hosta Show*