

The Memphis Horticultural Society
PO Box 11665
Memphis, TN 38111
www.memphishorticulture.org

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Goose Whisperer

There is a Dog Whisperer, a Horse Whisperer, and Now There is a Goose Whisperer!

I am the Goose Whisperer! Actually, I'm more of a Goose Flapper, but that just doesn't sound as cool as Goose Whisperer so, I'm going with Whisperer. Now, allow me to divulge the skills that have earned me this famous and envied title.

I work on Goodlett Farms Road where there are large office lots, some with ponds and just about all with beautiful grass and woods for the "Southern" Canadian Geese to enjoy hanging out. Behind our office building is pretty much woods and often our Northern, excuse me, I mean Southern feathered friends descend upon it like locust.

Now, no one in our office building is a goose hater, but you have to admit they do tend to leave behind some rather undesirable gifts. Some of these gifts have been left on the patio outside the back door where employees like to sit at the picnic table and eat their lunch.

There is also the problem of apparently bad eyesight in some of the larger geese because they keep flying at the office windows barely avoiding head on or in this case beak on collisions.

So, my brave boss, elected **me** to dispense the geese intruders. Well, I am no fool, I know that geese can be, ugh, rather ill tempered – so, I did not take this task lightly. First I made sure I had back up, a co-worker to hold the back door open in case things got ugly. Next I armed myself with a large umbrella and proceeded to open and close it while shaking (flapping) it at the intruders. Wonder of wonders, they soon took to the air. There have been repeat offenses, but the Goose Whisperer is on the job and all is well.

Just one more thing to add to the list of major accomplishments in my life, how sad is that?

**Who you gonna call!?!
Kay Little**

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Clippings

October 2011

It's Not Just a Job, It's a Passion!

Are you interested in trees: pruning, planting and general care? Then don't miss our October meeting when MHS welcomes Certified Arborist Wesley K. Hopper.

Wes has been in the field of arboriculture for 29 years. He has been involved with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) since 1996. He served two terms as the Tennessee State Director for the ISA Southern chapter, as vice president and now serves as president-elect.

Wes is past board member of the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and a founding member of the West Tennessee Urban Forestry Chapter (TUFC). He is past chairman for the TUFC and the Southern Chapter tree climb competitions.

Wes is the owner/operator of "Urban Forestry", a private residential tree care company based in Memphis, Tennessee. Wes has also been an instructor in the "Certified Arborist Study Course." since 1998 and is an evaluator for the "Tree Worker/Climber Specialist certification."

Wes's goal is to raise standards of quality in the tree care industry by educating the public on how to hire a professional arborist as well as educate other tree care companies in the care of our urban forest.

Come share Wes's passion at MBG, 7:00 p.m. on October 4.



WHAT A NIGHT!

An indoor picnic with more food than the Hort Society and guests could eat, NO BUGS, 2012 Officer Elections, Dianne Meucci, and a spectacular plant giveaway (many of which were donated by Rick Pudwell and the Memphis Botanic Garden).

A large crowd attended our belated annual picnic, but, they were unable to put away all that food! Many thanks to all who brought food.....Horticultural members are fantastic cooks!

Diane Meucci presented her "A CAREER OF BLESSINGS" with an elaborate slide show. Among the guests were many of her clients who contributed to the presentation. One of her largest undertakings has been the Mirimichi Golf Course. She has provided direction in selection of native plants which has resulted in the assignment of Audubon Sanctuary Status. This means that the Golf Course will include 80% Native Plants and 20% Non Native or Exotic Ornamentals.

The Mirimichi Gold Course has earned many more awards; i.e. the 2011 winner for Excellence in Parks and Recreation and the 2011 Tennessee Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award, much to Diane's credit.

Some of Diane's nuggets were: Right plant, right space; use more expensive items sparingly incorporated into less expensive items as "Gems"; native plants perform better in our climate; and, don't buy trees...just don't mow.

If you missed her presentation, you can to the following link on her website and view the entire slideshow: http://gardensoyvey.com/slideshows/career_of_blessings.html.

—Ginny Fletcher

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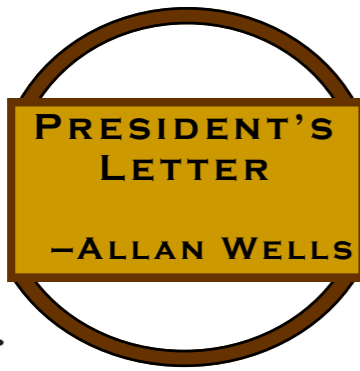
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Distribution

Webmaster:
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Newsletter Submissions:
Mhort.newsletter@gmail.com
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I want to personally thank everyone for putting together the program and the indoor picnic for September's meeting.

The food and desserts followed by the extraordinary Diane Meucci who presented "My Career of Blessings: The People, Gardens and Plants of the Mid-South that Shaped my Career and Provided my Living" was excellent. She kept the program moving with humor and great comments.

I know that some of us who put so much into their chosen careers probably understand why she is proud of her body of work accomplished and what the future could hold. We all will be watching and keeping up with that future.

The meeting began with the introduction of the nominees for 2012 board. A proposal to accept to Nominees by acclimation was made and seconded with everyone voting in the affirmative.

We have had a change in the November 1, 2011 meeting. Our scheduled speaker Carl Suk, cancelled due to an upcoming surgery. He will be replaced by Dr. Alan S. Windham, Professor, Ornamental and Turfgrass Pathology, UT Knoxville extension, with the topic: CSI for Gardeners: An Introduction to Plant Disease Diagnosis.

Just a reminder, December meeting will be our Christmas Party. I will be looking forward to a tasty spread for that meeting too.

Terrariums 101

Attendees at September's picnic were entranced by Donna Olswing's centerpiece terrariums. Per Donna:

"I had so much fun preparing for the Terrarium workshop Kim Rucker and I presented at the Dixon. It took eight months and sixteen terrariums but I now feel quite the expert. The more I researched the more I realized they are simple to make and even easier to maintain. I loved searching yard sales and discount stores for prize containers. My designs were whatever suited the containers. I will never again be without these miniature gardens in my home."



So how exactly do you create a terrarium? There are many "recipes" but my favorite goes back to my college days.

First find a container.

Any type of glass container is acceptable. If you select a container that is sealed, you will have a contained eco system that will require virtually no maintenance. Open containers will need slightly more care.

Besides a container, you will need drainage and growing mediums, activated charcoal, plants and, if desired, "yard art."

First, spread one to three inches (depending on the size of the container) of pea gravel, pebbles, or coarse sand evenly across the bottom of the terrarium. This will allow proper drainage.

Next add a thin layer of activated charcoal such as the kind used in old-fashioned aquariums to absorb toxins and keep your terrarium smelling sweet.

Place a layer of sphagnum moss on top of the charcoal to prevent the soil from sifting to the bottom and getting into the drainage medium.

The final step before adding plants is to add several inches of potting soil. The amount is again dependent on the size of your container.

When selecting plants, check the label. You want to select plants that will stay small!

Your terrarium is a miniature landscape so pay attention to lighting and moisture requirements and ensure you have a good mixture of plants for the environment. Choose moisture-loving plants that like low to medium light for enclosed terrariums. Plants that need less moisture are good for open terrariums.

Arrange various colors and textures according to your personal tastes before planting. Once satisfied with the arrangements, plant and add your "garden art." I've found a wealth of choices online looking for doll house furniture.

If you tend to neglect plants, terrariums are for you.

Enclosed terrariums will need very little watering. Open terrariums will need slightly more watering, but the enclosures on most sides make the watering requirements minimal. Keep an eye open for condensation on the sides. If there's none, a few drops of water are needed. If there's too much, open the lid of an enclosed terrarium for a day or two.

One final advantage: there's no need to fertilize because you want the plants to stay small.



Winners of the two terrariums at September's meeting were Barbara Bounds and Patricia O'Bryan. Plant materials were donated by Dixon Galleries and Gardens. Designs were by Donna Olswing.



Congratulations 2012 Officers!

The 2012 Officer election was conducted prior to our September speaker's presentation. The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was overwhelmingly agreed upon by the membership and are as follows:

OFFICERS

President: Ginny Fletcher
 Vice-President: Barry McCalla
 Treasurer: Don Wear
 Secretary: Paula Ragland
 Membership: Donna Stringer & Betty Griffith
 Program Chair: Sherri McCalla
 Ways and Means: Vicki Duggins

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership: Ed Sharrow
 Hospitality: Barbara Bounds & Cornelia Swain
 Floral Arrangements: Donna Olswing
 Plant Exchange: Tina McWhorter & Linda Pittman
 Newsletter Editor: Sharon Lusk & Emelia Miekicki
 Newsletter Distribution: Betty Griffith & Dee Wright
 Webmaster: Barry McCalla

Should you have any recommendations or suggestions for the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to contact any officer or committee member. Their contact information is available in this year's membership directory.