

FAIRFIELD GLADE GARDEN CLUB



2023 NEWSLETTER

From the President

I want to thank everyone for coming to our March meeting. Lucas was very informative and he was thrilled with our group and the interest shown in the topic.

It looks like spring has really sprung in our area and it is exciting to see the new growth and our yards bursting with color.

I hope everyone is looking forward to our Geranium and Fern Sale from April 17 through April 21. The High School students work hard on this and the plants are healthy and beautiful.

The UT Plant Sale will be May 6, 9am – 3pm at the Plateau Discovery Gardens on rt 70N. There will be a large selection of annuals, perennials and shrubs. This is a fund raiser for the Gardens.

The CCMG are also sponsoring a Garden Tea at the Plateau Discovery Gardens. The May 13 Tea will be the first of 3 this year. Tickets are \$20 each or 2 for \$35. For more information, please contact Carol at lorensmith@twlakes.net. Enjoy the beautiful weather and your gardening. Remember to use your member discount at Landscape Solutions and just have fun with color.

Rhoda

<p><i>April's Meeting</i> will be a Master Gardeners Panel</p> <p>Please send any questions you might have for the Master Gardener Panel to Rhoda Hiller at rhodaworld@aol.com and she will get them to the Panel. We will have 6 or 7 experienced Master Gardeners answering questions. They will also be taking questions at the meeting.</p>	<p>Our next meeting date is April 19th at the FG Community Church</p>
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SHARING TABLE.....SHARING TABLE.....SHARING TABLE

Let's have fun with our table in 2023 and kick it up a notch! Bring ANYTHING garden themed. This means ANYTHING! Puzzles, books, bookmarks, greeting cards, birdhouses, jewelry, scarves, etc. Of course we will feature your plants, cuttings and garden supplies as usual.

All donations go directly to the Helena Schmidt Scholarship Fund. Hoping for a record breaking year and lots of fun!

The Garden Club will have a silent auction at our annual member only event at the barn this coming autumn. We are looking for a member who has experience in this to head the auction sub-committee. Please contact member Deb Boyle (847-924-2112) with your interest.

Debora Boyle

Our May 17th Meeting will be our ***Annual Scholarship Luncheon***. The Scholarship winners and their families will

join us for a Luncheon sponsored by First National Bank. **It is a limited seating event so to attend you must sign up.** If you signed up at a previous meeting then you are good to go. If you have not yet signed up and would like to attend you can still do so at the April Garden Club Meeting. If you will not be at the April meeting and would like to attend the luncheon please email Sue Flynn at flynnsusan239@gmail.com.

Plant Sale Reminder

Be sure your calendars are marked for the
2023 Fern & Geranium sale:

April 17 – 18 at the Cumberland County High School
Greenhouse from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

April 19 – pack and transport day

April 20-21 at Village Green Mall

from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm on Thursday and 8:00 to 12:00 pm on
Friday

We could use an additional 1-2 volunteers on Tuesday at the high school from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. If you can volunteer, just call or text Darlene Petersen at 847-714-2153.

From the Travel Committee:

Coming soon!

April 25th – Landscaping with Perennials/Greenhouse Tours

Where: [Wolf River Valley Growers & PWP Greenhouses](#) – 170 Greenhouse Lane – Pall Mall, TN

Time: Discussion begins promptly at 10. Many of you would like to carpool so let's meet in the parking lot behind DollarTree at 8:45 am. We will need a few drivers and the rest can ride along.

Lunch: 12:00 pm – York Country Store – 2600 North York Highway – Pall Mall

We will begin with a workshop on landscaping with perennials.

Following the workshop we can tour their greenhouses – as many as

you like. They have almost 60 greenhouses full of locally grown plants, so this will be a great time to pick out your garden plants.

A number of you signed up at last month's meeting. Sign up sheets will be available again at the April 19th meeting.

June 22nd – [Fair Winds Lavender Farm](#)

Where: 794 Old Hiram Crabtree Road – Jamestown, TN

Time: Discussion begins promptly at 10. Many of you would like to carpool, so let's meet in the parking lot behind DollarTree at 8:45 am. We will need a few drivers and the rest can ride along.

We will have a workshop to make a lavender wand that we can take home with us. There will be a \$5.00 charge for supplies. Following the workshop we will get a tour of the gardens and facilities. I am told that this date is peak time for the lavender. We will also be able to sample some lavender ice cream and lavender lemonade.

May 23rd – TBD

Mark your calendars for May 23rd. We are planning an exciting field trip and will have details soon!

Last Month

We had an exciting trip to Johnson's Nursery and lunch at Mauricio's with a great turnout, despite the rainy day. Sarah Johnson made learning about the tough winter fun. Be sure to check out their nursery! Thanks to all who attended.

Questions about travel – contact Darlene Petersen – 847-714-2153

From the Environmental and Conservation Committee

Suzanne's Low Impact Lawn Care Tips

Are you looking for ways to reduce how much your lawn affects our lakes and streams, here are some easy-to-do ideas for you to consider. I will be posting short articles for the next couple of months. Let me know if there are any topics you would like me to cover. Please note, these tips are for those of you who have the

typical cool season grass lawns. If you have zoysia grass, please look up the specific needs of warm season grasses.

Yours Suzanne Wade, FGGC Environmental Chair

#1 Accept Diversity

Early grass seed mixes included clover to fix nitrogen and a clover free lawn was considered to be a sign of a lazy homeowner. The good news is that clover (and all legumes) “fix” nitrogen into a compound that your lawns can use. You will need 25% less nitrogen a year if you have clover.

If you can't stand violets or wild onions you will have to work hard to get rid of them. Their waxy coating makes them very resistant to chemicals – so accept them or eat them. Onions are edible, but you may find the bulbs pretty woody. All viola's including Johnny jump-ups are edible and beautiful in salads or candied. Still can't stand them, one way is to dig them up. The best way to have a weed free lawn is to provide a grass friendly environment. Let the grass outcompete the weeds.

#2 Fertilize as Needed

Your grass uses a lot of nitrogen and most people need to fertilize with nitrogen at least once a year. A healthy thick lawn is the best water quality practice around, as long as unnecessary chemicals aren't also used.

Best: Get a soil test. Fertilize accordingly.

Next Best: Fertilize in the fall, September or October.

Not so Good: If no soil test and you think your lawn needs help, ½ pound/1,000sq ft of Nitrogen in March or early April, then 1 pound N, P, K, in September followed by 1 lb of N in October or November. If you mulch your clippings you can skip one fertilization.

Not Effective: Fertilizing in May or providing too much N earlier can encourage nuisance neighbors, such as crabgrass and dallisgrass. They will 'party on' with all that food, and no one likes nuisance neighbors.

Credits: Low Maintenance Lawn Care from UK Extension, plus information from other Kentucky Extension materials: AGR-50, AGR-209, AGR-212, ID-154 with assistance from Greg Upchurch, Cumberland County Extension.

Look what I dug up by Nathy Hill

Have you ever wondered: Why do worms come to the surface when it rains?

Scientists don't fully understand this phenomenon, although a few theories exist as to why worms engage in this behavior during a good rainfall.

I always thought they came to the surface as a way to prevent themselves from drowning. However scientists now know this isn't true and worms won't drown when it rains. They actually need moisture in the soil to breathe, because they breathe through their skin. Worms can even survive for days fully submerged in water.

One theory is that coming above ground when it rains helps worms move more quickly than they are able to while burrowing tunnels underground. Above-ground travel is only possible when it's raining or right after because they need moisture and cannot travel across dry ground.

Another theory is that the vibrations created by rain drops may also draw worms to the surface when it rains. Worms may think the vibrations are from predators like moles moving through the soil. And just like worms will move toward the surface to escape a nearby mole, they may move the same way when it rains, thinking the vibrations caused by the rain are caused by predators.

No matter why they come to the surface in the rain, we frequently see evidence that they don't always make it back down underground quickly enough after it stops. You can help a worm or two after it rains by moving them off the pavement or sidewalk and onto the nearest patch of dirt or grass. This will allow them to more quickly burrow back underground.

We benefit from having earthworms hard at work under our feet. While they are not essential for healthy soil, the presence of earthworms is an indicator that the soil is healthy, according to the University of Illinois Extension. All their digging and crawling through dirt has several benefits. Worms help improve the soil's water-holding capacity and increase filtration, they create channels to allow plant roots to grow, they mix soil and they stimulate microbial activity, which aids in plants being able to take up nutrients from the soil.

And while you may think a worm is a worm is a worm, there is a huge diversity among them. Earthworms are divided into 23 families, which include more than 7,000 different species, the Illinois extension reports. One interesting fact I didn't know is that very few earthworm species are native to the United States, and none to the northern part of the country. The worms we most commonly see are native to Europe, most likely transported to the United States in potted plants brought by settlers.

Though the vast majority of non-native worms aren't harmful to the ecosystem, a few worms are considered invasive. One example is the jumping worm which was first identified in

northern Illinois in 2015. Jumping worms are harmful because they alter the soil in ways that make it harder for native plants to grow, which allows invasive plants to more easily take root.

Information for this article is from the following article:

https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/news-events/the-buzz/nature-curiosity-why-do-worms-come-above-ground?fbclid=IwAR0YSrsvH6_6vg7UwZBAKyD8O9Mz9DWJu1ssB-Dv3qIQCqPgeXT1Y5PVEyA

Soil3 Big Yellow Bag Compost Promotion:

Soil3 is an organic humus/compost which can be used on lawns, raised beds, and garden beds with no other soil additive. It does not require fertilizer during the growing season. It helps to retain water with no mulch required.

The **Big Yellow Bag** – 1 cubic yard (27 cubic feet) will be delivered to your driveway. The soil can be stored in its re-sealable bag and used over several months' time. Other bagged soil bought locally may be a little less expensive but some are not for lawns and need to be mixed with garden soil for raised beds and mulch is recommended for water retention.

Plus if you use the link or code below you will receive \$5 off regular pricing!

As an added bonus the Garden Club will earn \$15 for each product ordered which will go into our Scholarship Fund. And, for returned empty bags a Big Yellow Bag will be donated to the Plateau Discovery Gardens.

Go to www.Soil3.com for more info; make sure to enter **Promotion Code FGGC2023** in order for the Garden Club to get credit for the sale. You can also go to the <https://shop.soil3.com/discount/FGGC2023> link which automatically applies directly to our promotion code.

UT Discovery Garden's Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, May 6th 9-3 CDT

at 320 Experiment Station Rd. ([Click for Map](#))

What better place to shop for plants than from knowledgeable Master Gardeners and staff horticulturists. They have a great list of award-winning, tried and true, native, and pollinator plants. AND even more to come!

UT Gardens Members receive 10% off.

Not a member? No problem. Sign up at the plant sale or click on the following link

https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PROD UCTID=810

Submissions for publication in this newsletter should be emailed to Kathy Spancake at kathy.spancake@gmail.com by the 28th of each month.

Website - fggardenclub.com email - fggardenclub@gmail.com

Leader Board Meeting - Friday before General Meeting - 9:00 am

General Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of month - 521 Snead Drive - 9:30 am

Coffee & Socializing - 9:00 am - Bring your own coffee mug

September - off site meeting - December - no meeting

attachment(s): March 2023 General Meeting Minutes