

CHRIS' CORNER



Master Gardener applications are now available!

Applications for the 2013 Master Gardener classes are available now and will be accepted through July 31st. The fifteen week program begins in January and continues into April. Students, called interns, will learn about landscape design, botany, plant diseases and pests, lawn care, weeds, trees, vegetables, and a wide variety of other gardening topics.

The University of Tennessee Extension Service sponsored classes will meet once a week for three hours. Students have the option to attend class on either Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings. The fee for the course is \$150 and will include three field trips.

Interns reinforce their learning by giving 40 hours of volunteer service in garden-related projects for the community and the UT Extension Service. Upon graduation, most interns join the Memphis Area Master Gardener Association (MAMGA). Our organization has over 400 members.

MAMGA projects include a wider range of horticultural activities that promote education within the community. The Horticulture Hotline (751-1207), Youth Plant Camp, Speakers Bureau, "Ask a Master Gardener" clinics, Through Our Garden Gates, and Spring Fling are some of our most popular projects. Master Gardeners also support the community by volunteering at public gardens, being involved in Habitat for Humanity Landscaping and Education, and maintaining three vegetable gardens that donate fresh produce to the local food bank.

Applications are available at all Memphis libraries, at the University of Tennessee Extension Office located in the Agricenter, Wing B, or by downloading from above (just click the above photo). You can also pick up an application at the "Ask a Master Gardener" table at Lowe's in Collierville on June 9th and June 16th.

For more information about the Master Gardener program give me a call at 752-1207 or drop by my office. I would love to tell you more about this wonderful program!

Happy gardening!



Christopher Cooper