

Spring 2025

HSMT Newsletter





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Message from your HSMT President, Deby Pitts



Spring is in the Air: Branching Out to Plant Trees

Spring is in the air, and with it comes the promise of new beginnings. There's no better way to celebrate the season of renewal than by planting a tree. Trees are our future—they clean our air, provide shade, support wildlife, and bring beauty to our landscapes. More importantly, planting a tree is an act of hope, a commitment to the generations that will come after us.

Watching a tree grow from a sapling to a towering presence is a humbling experience. It reminds us of the power of life, the resilience of nature, and the impact we can have when we choose to nurture our environment. Each tree planted today strengthens Middle Tennessee's tree canopy, helping to combat the loss of green spaces due to rapid development and climate change.

Gardeners and garden clubs have long understood the significance of trees. Their hands gave cultivated the land, nurtured countless plants, and fostered a deep appreciation for nature's cycles. The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee (HSMT), Root Nashville, the Nashville Tree Foundation and other organizations are working tirelessly to encourage tree planting efforts, ensuring that our communities remain lush and vibrant for years to come.

But this effort isn't just for seasoned gardeners—it's for everyone. Whether you have a sprawling yard or a small patch of earth, you can be a part of this movement. Join a local tree-planting event, support community greening projects, or simply plant a tree in your own space. Let your tree be counted by being part of the HSMT Plant a Tree Campaign. Our goal is to help Root Nashville plant 500,000 trees, charting their location is integral to this campaign.

As we welcome spring, let's branch out and take action. Let's plant trees, nurture life, and invest in a future where the shade we enjoy today will be there for our children and grandchildren. The time to plant is now—let's grow something beautiful together.

Keep checking the HSMT website (hsmt.org) and your email for updates and for specific ideas about how you and/or your garden club can help plant trees for your local communities.

Deby

**The Winter HSMT General Membership Meeting
was held Monday, January 27, 2025 in
Cheekwood's Botanic Hall.**

**HSMT President Deby Pitts
lead the meeting, discussing
the tremendous success of
2024 *Sparkling Settings* and the
importance of nominating a
HSMT President-elect and
treasurer for 2026-2027.**



**The HSMT *Award of Merit* was presented
posthumously to Susan Winters Edwards.**

**Jennifer Smith gave a
Horticulture of Metro Nashville update and
promoted the *Trees of Nashville* Campaign.**

Jennie Bowman introduced our speaker Troy Marden, who enlightened us on “Plants I’ve Loved—A Lifelong Affair in the Garden”.



The meeting ended with door prizes and box lunches from Cheekwood's *Cafe 29*.

Remembering Susan Winters Edwards



1933 - 2025

Sue Edwards was a delightful presence at ALL HSMT events, and as President of the Horticultural Society from 2001-2003, she initiated many popular HSMT fundraisers including the “Summer Supper and Concert” and “Starry Starry Night”. She was a faithful supporter of HSMT—giving her time, energy and donations for decades.

Sue was an avid gardener, and served on the boards of many local organizations. She was President of the Nashville City Panhellenic Council, President of the Belmont Mansion Association, President of the Centennial Club, Board Member and Life Member of Fannie Battle Social Workers, and Life Member of the Polk Memorial Association. She was a member of West End Methodist Church, Timberlee Garden Club, and Sow ‘n Grow Garden Club, the Cheekwood Ladies Heritage Association, and the Auxiliary to the Salvation Army. And, of all of these, her love for the Horticultural Society was foremost.

She was overwhelmed when told of her receiving The HSMT Award of Merit, which she richly deserved. Sadly, Sue passed away on January 7th. She has been called the “quintessential southern lady”. And so she was.

Tribute by Dixie Powell

Introducing



HSMT President Elect, Lacey Moore



HSMT Treasurer, Abbie Griffith

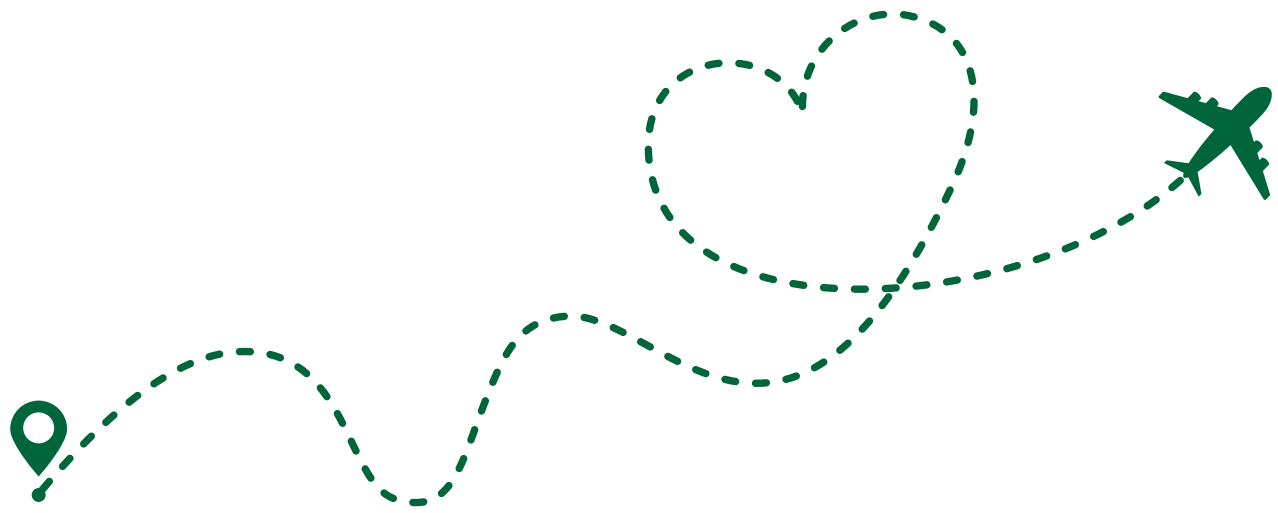


HSMT Administrator, Camille Chaffin

**Join us for their formal introduction at the
April 21st Spring Membership Meeting**



UPCOMING EVENTS



LOVE
is in the air

CHEEKWOOD IN BLOOM

Sponsored by

HCA 
Healthcare™

March 8 - April 13, 2025

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville

THE PERENNIAL PLANT SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

2025 ANNUAL PLANT SALE



SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025



LOTS MORE
NATIVES

HUNDREDS OF
PLANTS (Shrubs,
vines, ferns, more)



FREE ADMISSION

The Fairgrounds

Nashville

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Expo 1 *Note change

No Pets Allowed - Carts Welcome - \$10 Parking

This sale is organized by The Perennial Plant Society of Middle Tennessee.

All Profits are used to fund horticultural education in our state.



Plant Sale



brought to you by

THE HERB SOCIETY OF NASHVILLE

Saturday, April 12, 2025

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

The Fairgrounds Nashville - Expo 1

(note new location this year!)

Extensive & Unique Selection

of

Herbs, Vegetables, Fruit Trees & Shrubs

New Varieties Added Yearly

Expert recommendations on
plant selection, care, and usage
by our knowledgeable members



Plant list, map & more @ herbsocietynashville.org

18th Annual Native Plant Sale

Saturday, April 12, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(or until plants are sold out)

Cheekwood Frist Learning Center



Native plants, flowers, shrubs, azaleas and more!

**Available with Gardens Only or
Gardens + Mansion Access**

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Spring Membership Meeting

April 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Botanic Hall

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

1200 Forrest Park Drive

Nashville



How to Plant a Tree Successfully!

Branching Out
THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE



Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee

Meeting and Coffee “Floral Design Focus”

October 13, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Botanic Hall
Cheekwood
Estate & Gardens
1200 Forrest Park Drive
Nashville



Save The Date



Sparkling Settings

Holiday Luncheon

Monday, December 1, 2025

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

•
BOTANIC HALL
CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS

•
1200 FORREST PARK DRIVE
NASHVILLE





**If you wish to contact the
Horticultural Society of
Middle Tennessee
(HSMT), please visit our
website hsmtn.org or
email or call us.**



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