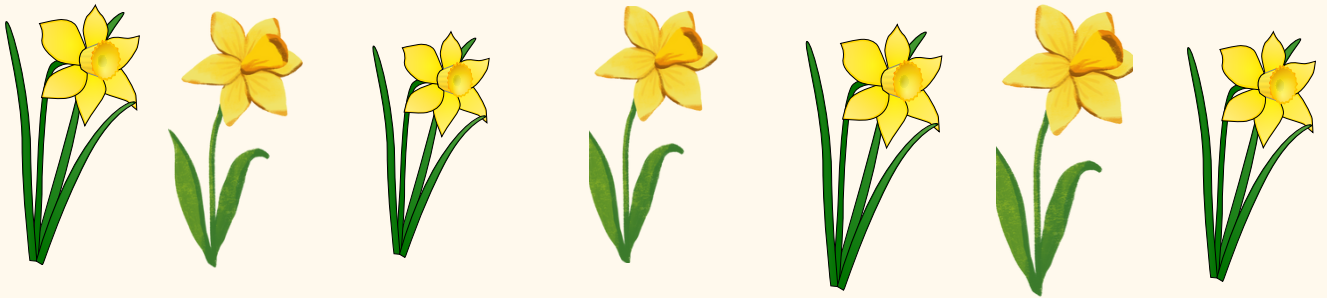




*Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee*

AT CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS

SPRING 2024



## From our New President, Deby Pitts

Joyful Spring Salutations! How did your passion for all things growing begin? Who knew that helping my mother and my grandmother garden would bring me to this latest journey of serving as president of our beloved HSMT? Let's have fun as we work together to further the mission of HSMT to share horticultural information, encourage conservation of native trees, plants and birds and promote beautification of our community. We want and welcome your ideas and feedback as we build upon the amazing legacy of The HSMT. Please respond to our survey, which will guide us as we set goals and plans for our future and build upon your passion for all things growing!

My door is always open to you and your ideas.

Your Soil Sister,  
Deborah Pitts



*Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee*

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SPRING 2024



## From our Past President, Carla Nelson

I am truly honored to have served as HSMT president the past 4 years! With your support, HSMT not only weathered the COVID quarantine but thrived with creative new fundraisers like Stay At Home Doorstep Dinners, your continued generous support of our annual fund drive, and your continued support through your Auxiliary and Garden Club dues. We couldn't have done it without you! A special thank you to my outstanding board: Harriet McHenry, Sylvia Ganier, Melanie Fuson, Debbie Bryan, Kim Looney, Virginia Casalone, Marlene Key, Anne Shepherd, Patsy Weigel, Bobbie Wolcott, Morel Henry, Dixie Powell, Gail Chickey, Nancy Russell, Dean Reeves, Denise Thorne, Pam Dowd and our many committee chairs and volunteers. You are all superstars! Thank you for 4 great years, and congratulations to Deby and her board! HSMT is in great hands!

*Carla*



*Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee*

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SPRING 2024

## New Board members 2024-2026,



**President Deby Pitts (right)  
with outgoing President,  
Carla Nelson (center)  
and Treasurer, Kim  
Looney (left)**

The HSMT Nominating Committee was chaired by Denise Thorne, and the slate was approved at the March 2024 general membership meeting. Officers will take office in May. We are pleased with board representation from numerous garden clubs.



## Past Board members (2019-2024) were recognized and thanked at the meeting

Elizabeth Ralph (L) who served as Administrator for the past 4 years was thanked by HSMT leaders and has successfully transitioned the office responsibilities to MK Geismar (R).



# Meet our new Board!



## 2024 Slate of Officers:

President – Deborah Pitts- Sew N Sow GC

First Vice President – Laurie Seabury, Auxiliary

Second Vice President – Jennie Bowman – Brook Meade GC

Recording Secretary – Gerry Sams – Oak Valley GC

Treasurer – Kim Looney – Auxiliary

Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Rogers – Grapevine GC

## Directors

1. Murray Clayton – Brook Meade GC

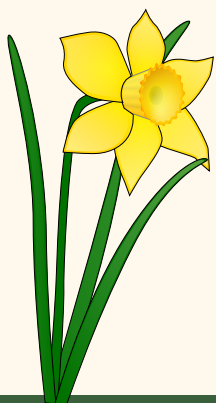
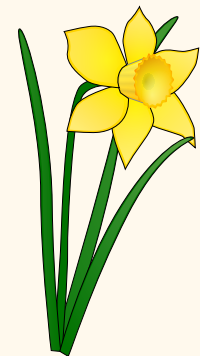
2. Dixie Powell – Auxiliary

3. Bette Ann Fields- Gateway Acres GC

4. Lynne Wallman – Oak Valley GC and Gateway Acres GC

5. Doris Weakley – Tyne Meade GC

Alternate Director- Dianne Berry – Town and Country GC



# Horticultural Society Administrator

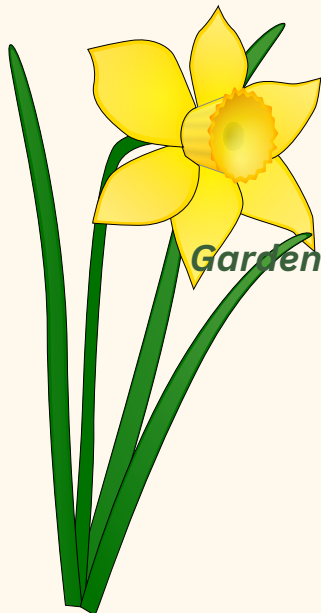
## Meet MK Geismar

MK Geismar joined the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee office as Administrator in October 2023, and we couldn't be more excited.

She is a native Nashvillian having graduated from Harpeth Hall and the University of the South.

She already effectively worked with volunteer chairmen to coordinate a successful Sparkling Settings event as well as Martinis and Mistletoe, both held in December 2023 as well as the Winter membership meeting held in March.

She and her husband Jake are parents to two young daughters and eagerly await the birth of another baby in July.



*Garden Clubs. I am excited to learn more about horticulture and more about the many amazing women in this organization. Thank you all for the warm welcome!"*

*- MK*

Please join us in welcoming MK  
to HSMT.

[MKGeismar@hsmtn.org](mailto:MKGeismar@hsmtn.org)



# Upcoming HSMT Events

May membership meeting  
and fashion show



May 20, 2024



Cheekwood, Botanic Hall

fashions presented by Dillard's , Green Hills

Lunch by registration

HSMTN.org website

Pumpkins, Gourds and Mums, Oh My!  
(HSMT Fall Flower Show)

September 24 - Botanic Hall

September 23 - Set Up



**SAVE THE DATE!**

Sparkling Settings

Dec 2, 2024



Dec 16, 2024

for a new, fun holiday  
event at Cheekwood the  
whole family will enjoy!  
More info to come!



# Upcoming Community Events



**Native Plant Sale at Cheekwood  
Frist Learning Center  
April 6 - 9 am**

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**Herb Society Plant Sale  
April 13, Nashville Fairgrounds  
8:30-1:00**



**Williamson County Plant Sale  
Wm'son Cty Ag. Expo Park, West Side  
April 13, 9:00-5:00**

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**Garden Club of Nashville  
Spring Flower show  
April 17-18  
1:30-5:30, Thursday  
Hilton, Green Hills, Nashville**

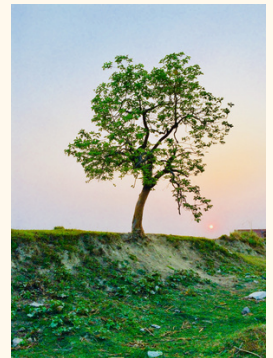
# More Upcoming Community Events

## 2024 Earth Day Festival

April 20: 11am-5pm

The Nashville Tree Foundation will be giving away free trees thanks to its partnership with

Amazon at Centennial Park's Nashville Earth Day Festival at the Centennial Park Bandshell. Trees are first-come, first-serve and are limited to 1 tree per household. Come early to take your pick of the "sapling forest!"



Species include: White Oak, Willow Oak, Tulip Poplar, Loblolly Pine, Southern Magnolia, Nellie R Stevens holly, Serviceberry "Autumn Brilliance", Paw Paw, Alleghany Viburnum, Jane Magnolia, Ann Magnolia, Kousa Dogwood



## Nashville Rose Society Annual Rose Show

May 25 – 1 p.m.-5: p.m.

Sunday, May 26 – 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cheekwood Botanical Estate & Gardens

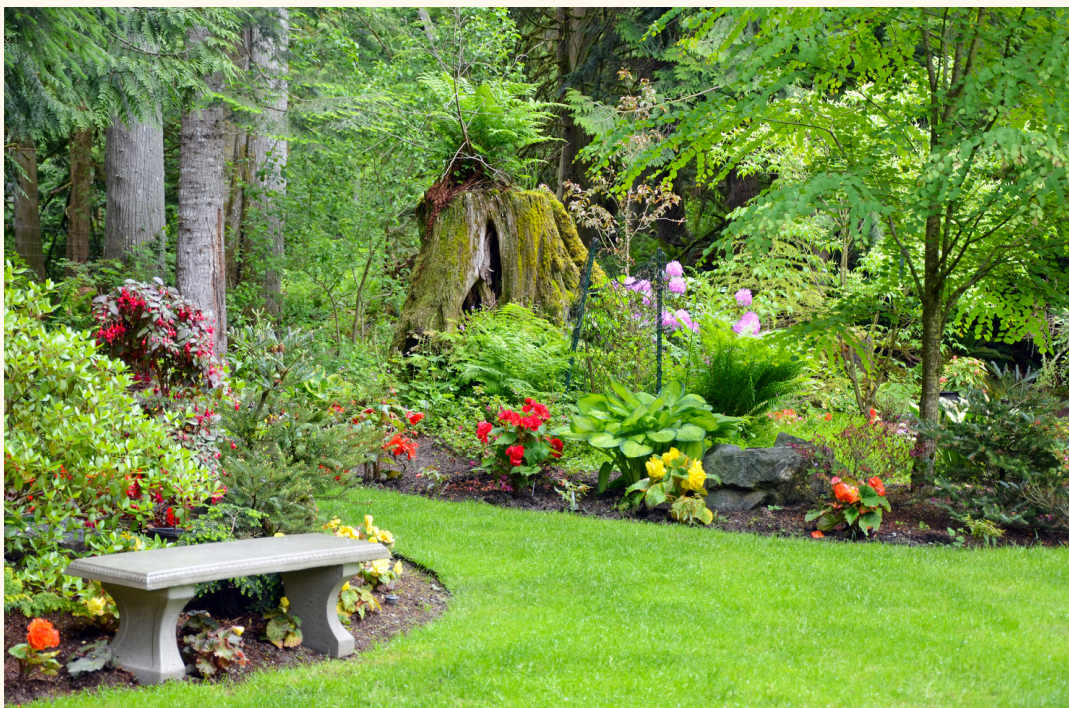


# Community Events, cont...



**Join an adult gardening class at  
Cheekwood Gardening School!**

**See more info on Cheekwood's website:  
<https://cheekwood.org/learn/adult-education-programs/gardening-classes/>**



# Garden Club Spotlight

Belmont Garden Club hosted a membership meeting with featured floral designer Memma Warfield.



**Memma also generously  
donated to our Sparkling  
Settings auction**

**[memmawarfield@gmail.com](mailto:memmawarfield@gmail.com)**

# Garden Club Spotlight



Harpeth Bend Garden Club celebrated Tennessee Tree Day on March 16 by planting 31 trees, including redbuds, American beautyberry, flowering dogwood, pecan, persimmon, shortleaf pine & tulip poplar!



Catherine Lewis, pictured above, volunteered with the Cosecha Community Development pick-up site, from which some of the saplings were distributed.

Harpeth Bend was represented at the Deep South Convention in Gatlinburg and won 1st place in "Landscape Design" in the small club category! Congrats!



Harpeth Bend also pointed out that April is "Plant America" month!  
Let's get to planting, HSMT!



# Branching Out

**Jennifer Smith**, a member of HSMT and the City Horticulturist for Metro Water Services, Stormwater, invited and challenged all garden clubs and HSMT members to be part of the

**Root Nashville Campaign to plant 500,000 trees in our community by 2050.**

Root Nashville is a citywide focus on increasing the impact of expanding and protecting our green canopy.

**If each garden club planted just 10 trees per year**, think of the positive impact we would have!

Be sure to plot your trees on the Root Nashville Tree Plotter map to count towards the Campaign.

**Free trees are available** throughout the year from a variety of sources: **[nashvilletreefoundation.org](https://nashvilletreefoundation.org)**, for free trees, or attend the **2024 Earth Day Festival** at Centennial Park on April 20 and select a free tree.

**Help spread the word and grow our green canopy!**

**MORE INFORMATION AT [ROOTNASHVILLE.ORG](https://rootnashville.org)**



# HSMT Happenings

The HSMT Winter membership meeting was held on March 25 after a snow delay, then a water main break delay.

Peter Grimaldi spoke to members about Bryant Fleming and the historic Cheekwood landscape.



MK Geismar (Administrator),  
Dianne Berry, Harriet McHenry



Deby Pitts (HSMT President),  
Peter Grimaldi (VP of Cheekwood's  
Gardens & Facilities)

A special thank you to members of **Tyne Meade Garden Club** for providing refreshments and hospitality at this meeting. They were also awarded a prize for the highest attendance! Congrats!



# HSMT Clubs

as of 3/2024

Time to renew club membership is NOW, April 1.  
Contact MK Geismar if you have not yet renewed  
or need more info!

All Seasons

Bellevue

Belmont

Brentwood

Brook Meade

Country Homes

Dubious Diggers

First Saturday

Friends and Flowers

Garden Club of Nashville

Garden Lovers

Gateway Acres

Grapevine

Harpeth Bend

Hendersonville

Iris City

Lebanon Road

New Neighbors

Oak Hill

Oak Valley

Optimistic

Pulaski

Rachel Jackson

Seed and Weed

Sew 'n Sow

Shelbyville

Town and Country

Tyne Meade

Volunteer

Warner Park

Wilson County -

Town and Country

HSMT Auxiliary membership is open to all who  
would like to join!



# Benefits of HSMT Membership

\*Informative meetings with speakers and refreshments hosted by HSMT leadership - no charge to members. Door prizes or gifts at most meetings!

\*Discounted Cheekwood membership with special code HSMT2024 (\$15 discount)

\*Community of strong, smart women with common horticultural interests and knowledge of ways to come together and give back to our planet

\*Access to curated list of speakers for club meetings

\*Invitation to participate in or attend Flower Show (free), Sparkling Settings event

\*Electronic newsletters promoting garden tours, plant sales, and other community or volunteer opportunities



Sandra Harris, Membership manager

**HSMT members receive a discount on Cheekwood membership!**

**contact:**

**[membership@Cheekwood.org](mailto:membership@Cheekwood.org)**

# HSMT Survey

**We value and need your feedback to make HSMT everything you want and more!**

**Don't forget to respond to our online survey:**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W36RCHT>**

**Thank you to those who have already submitted their responses!**





# **Recommended Speakers for your club meetings:**

If you are looking for program ideas for your club, contact the HSMT office for a list of suggestions or see the link on our website.



# SUPPORT US

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of the  
Horticultural  
Society of Middle  
Tennessee

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you!*

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**Thank you to our  
FIRST  
corporate sponsor**

**Bartlett Tree Services  
contact [Mdavie@bartlett.com](mailto:Mdavie@bartlett.com)**