

Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee



Winter 2024 Newsletter

'Tis the Season



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Letter from the HSMT President Deborah Pitts



‘Tis the Season for winter magic and reflection. Winter can be a magical time to connect with family and enjoy the beauty of nature. Gardens, even in winter, offer a unique charm. Look around and enjoy the evergreens, winter-blooming flowers like hellebores and Edgeworthia chrysantha (Paperbush), or perhaps some decorative elements like twinkling lights or ornaments that evoke magic and smiles.

Spending time in a garden can also be a peaceful escape, allowing you to reflect and embrace the season’s stillness. It can also be a wonderful opportunity to teach younger family members about gardening, share tips on winter plant care, or even start planting seeds indoors for the spring.

Family gatherings during this time are often filled with warmth and joy from preparing special meals together to sharing stories around the table or by the fireplace. These moments create cherished memories. Who does not enjoy traditions like baking holiday treats, crafting decorations, or even taking winter walks to appreciate the people and beauty in your world?!

The winter season is a perfect time for gratitude and reflecting on the past year, along with bonds you’ve built with loved ones. It’s a chance to express appreciation for each other and the little things that make life special. Whether it’s through shared meals, fun activities, or simply enjoying each other’s presence, these experiences deepen the connections that matter most.

How do you like to combine your love for gardens and family during the winter season?

Deby

Highlights from the *Pumpkins, Gourds, and Mums, Oh My!* Flower Show held on September 24, 2024



Barbara Rogers and Deby Pitts with the *HSMT Educational Exhibit* that won the *Educational Top Exhibitor Award* at the Show



Ro Shulenberger's *Botanical Art's Scarecrow* was awarded the HSMT's *People's Choice Award*.





HSMT FALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

FROM Monday October 14, 2024

Announcement of 10th Anniversary of Holiday LIGHTS of Cheekwood

Cheekwood celebrates the 10th Anniversary of Holiday LIGHTS (November 22, 2024 thru January 5, 2025) with three special features:

- ***“Gifts of the Garden”*** designed by **Laura Dowling**, former White House Floral designer, with Holiday decor festooned throughout the **Cheekwood Mansion.**

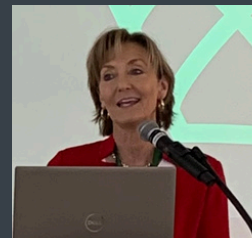


Speakers:



Deby Pitts

HSMT President



Jane MacLeod

President and CEO of Cheekwood



HSMT FALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

FROM Monday October 14, 2024

- ***Holidays at the White House with the First Ladies:***

Jacqueline Kennedy to Michelle Obama, a photographic journey of the Holiday Decor and Traditions at the White House with recent First Ladies



- ***Illuminated Giant Christmas Tree in the Color Garden***



HSMT members were invited to volunteer to be docents/hosts for *Gifts of the Garden*. Volunteer online at hsmtn.org and select “*Volunteer*”. You will be directed to choose from “*Gifts of the Garden*” or *HSMT Annual Appeal*.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



Thankful for HSMT's

ANNUAL APPEAL VOLUNTEERS

WHO HELPED CREATE, ASSEMBLE, STAMP AND
MAIL LETTERS THAT JUST WENT OUT VIA USPS!

WHAT AN AMAZING GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WHO SHOWED UP TO HELP!

Special Shoutout to

Cynthia Moroney (HSMT Mailings Chair)

Elizabeth Ralph (recently retired HSMT Administrator)

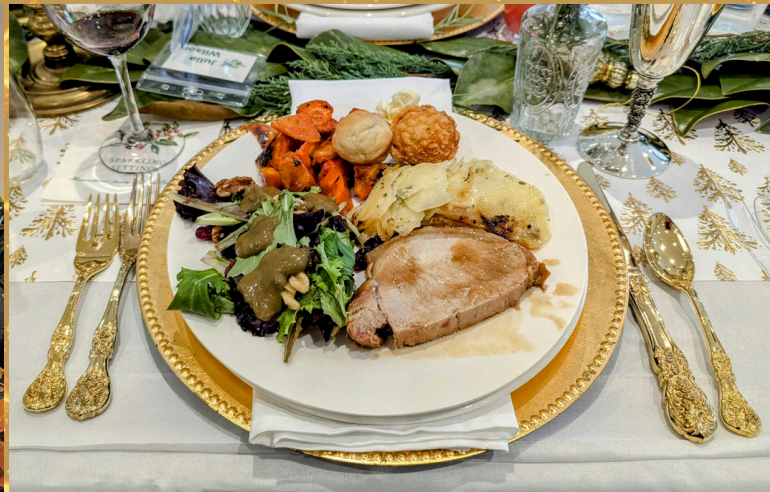
Deby Pitts (HSMT President)

Sparkling Settings

returned to Cheekwood's Botanic Hall on December 2, 2024 for a soldout extravaganza of beautifully decorated tables, delicious food, elegant cocktails, an amazing Silent Auction, and heartwarming fellowship with HSMT members.



HSMT President, Deby Pitts thanks Sparkling Settings co-chairs, Barbara Rogers and Ashley Henry for their fabulous work on organizing and presenting the fundraising luncheon.



Sparkling Settings Highlights

Ben Lomand Garden Club



Tyne Meade Garden Club



Sparkling Settings Highlights



Sparkling Settings Highlights



Sparkling Settings was a spectacular success because of the efforts of our large and extensive village, especially our Garden Clubs!

Of special note (in alphabetical order) are:

All Donors, Guests and Patrons

Paige Alkire

Anna Marie Allen

Brenda Batey

Dianne Berry

Jennie Bowman

Judith Bracken

Cheekwood

Chef's Market

Murray Clayton

Ted Clayton

Kayla Counts

MK Geismar

Peter Grimaldi

Ashley Weigel Henry, Co-Chair

Marlene Key

Janet Kurtz

Mary Louise Linn

Betsy Lindseth

Lipman Brothers

Jane MacLeod

Lacey Moore

Beth Murdock

Ann Page

Deby Pitts

Elizabeth Ralph

Barbara Rogers, Co-Chair

Nancy Russell

Gerry Sams

Laurie Seabury

Joanne Slaughter

John Starbucks

Mary Weber

The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee lost several cherished members in 2024.



*Karen Marsh
Cameron*

Tyne Meade Garden Club

Died July 20, 2024

Karen was born in Oak Ridge, TN and later made her home in Nashville. She was a creative soul, enjoying gardening, floral arranging, songwriting and traveling. Her Celebration of Life was held at her home and gardens, where she had planted a border of flowering plants around her yard. The beautiful service was attended by many, including some members of the Tyne Meade Garden Club.



*Jerrelynn "Jerri"
Davis Drass*

Oak Hill Garden Club

Died September 22, 2024

Jerri had a wide variety of interests and vocations, including being a popular real estate agent for 42 years, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, served as a docent at the Governor's Mansion, and was a flower show judge. She was also a longtime member of T.A.G.S. and District II Judges Council.



Peggy Dughman
Tyne Meade Garden Club
Died September 1, 2024

Peggy was a self-made woman with a thirst for knowledge, earning a bachelor's degree and two Masters degrees. She served as executive director of the Franklin Housing Authority for 28 years. She was a voracious reader and advocate for literacy. She was always busy with projects, ranging from gardening and pickling vegetables to renovation projects. As a gardener and farmer, she planted roses, a variety of flowers and vegetables, raised exotic chickens, added a glass greenhouse to her property, and was part of the Nashville Home and Garden Show. Her granddaughter, Caroline, said of her grandmother: "She truly embodied everything it meant to be an independent, fierce woman". Throughout her life, Peggy had a way of taking on adversity and turning it into advantage.



Betty Waites Walker
Bellevue Garden Club
Died September 22, 2024

Betty Waites Walker was born in South Carolina, but she was a proud Tennessean since 1959. She became very involved in the community by volunteering, serving on numerous boards, and organizing special events and galas. She was one of the founders of CABLE, a professional women's club, and she owned and operated her own business, *Betty Walker Tours*. Many of the HSMT members were fortunate over the years to join Betty on her amazing trips, and she always gave a generous portion of her revenue to the Horticultural Society. She was awarded the *Horticultural Society Award of Merit* earlier this year, and will always be remembered as a tireless volunteer and friend to HSMT. For those of us who were fortunate to know her, Betty was a great friend. She always had a smile on her face, her laughter was infectious, and she was a genuinely kind person.

—Dixie Powell



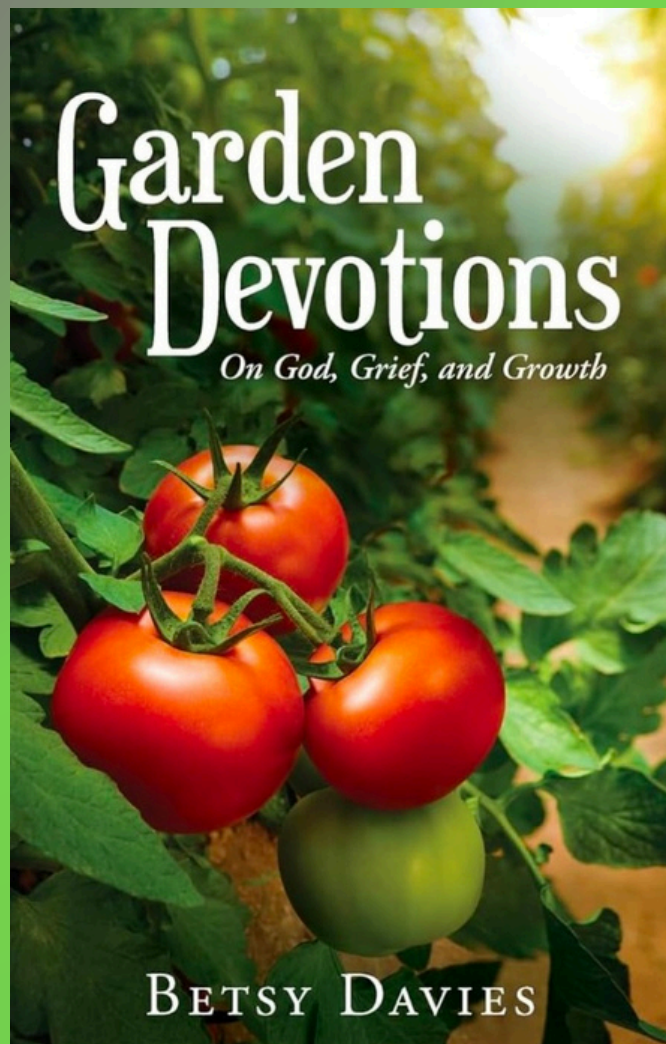
Diane Reams Deters
Brentwood Garden Club
Died May 24, 2024

A fitting description of Diane would be “Modern Classic”. She was intelligent, humorous, and beautiful, and balanced a successful career at United Methodist Communications with raising a family, meeting challenges and adversity with great poise and determination. She had a green thumb and deep passion for plants and flowers, which was evident in her love for cultivating and arranging them in vibrant displays for both her church and social occasions. Flowers from her Celebration of Life were donated to the “Flower The People” organization for redistribution to local hospitals and nursing homes.



What Should I Read Next...?

How about a truly inspirational book by a local author!



God's love and life's hardships are evident in our backyard gardens. From the transformation of seeds, through the battles with weeds, to the use of the fruit, gardens are an apt metaphor for the Christian life. Betsy Davies walks us through the seasons and the lessons she learns through each of them. No matter what is happening in her garden—transformation, growth, weeds, predators, fruit or no fruit—Betsy relates how they reflect scripture and what we can learn about the nature of God and His love for us. Etta Wilson—agent and editor

Book available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

HSMT is inviting members to nominate a new Incoming HSMT President.

Members can self-nominate, or nominate another HSMT member they believe would be an excellent president.

The HSMT Bylaws specify that an incoming president is to be elected in January of every odd year.

The Incoming President thus has the benefit of learning from existing HSMT officers and directors, prior to becoming President.

We welcome your nominations!

Please send your nominations to:

Carla Nelson—Immediate Past President & Governance

Director CarlaKNelson@comcast.net

For questions, contact Deby Pitts

debypitts@icloud.com



UPCOMING Events



**Holiday LIGHTS of Cheekwood
& Laura Dowling Gifts of the Garden
Mansion decor**

**November 22
- January 5**

HSMT Winter Meeting

January 27

Nashville Antiques and Garden Show

**January 31 -
February 2**

**Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc.
2025 Convention
Valdosta, Georgia**

March 11-13

**Middle Tennessee Daffodil Society
Spring Show at Cheekwood**

March 22 - 23

**TFGC District II Spring Meeting
Mt. Juliet**

April 1

**Perennial Plant Society of Middle
Tennessee—Annual Plant Sale at
Nashville Fairgrounds**

April 5

**Herb Society of Nashville
Spring Plant Sale**

**April 12
8:30am- 1pm
or until sold out**

**TFGC 2025 Convention
Chattanooga, TN**

April 21 - 23

Benefits of HSMT Membership

- **CONNECT** with individuals who share common horticultural interests
- **LEARN** from informative experts at meetings with refreshments hosted by HSMT
- **GROW** your garden by using information from HSMT's speakers and the HSMT website
- **THRIVE** through connecting, learning, and the joy of nature

HSMT Garden Clubs

as of December 2024

- 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 Gardeners
- 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.**

HSMT Board of Directors

Officers & Directors 2024-2026

**President: Deborah Pitts—
Sew 'N Sow GC**

**First Vice President: Laurie Seabury—
Auxiliary**

**Recording Secretary: Gerry Sams—
Oak Valley GC**

**Treasurer: Kim Looney—
Auxiliary**

**Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Rogers—
Grapevine GC**

Directors:

Membership Director: Murray Clayton—Brook Meade GC

Education & Outreach: Jennie Bowman—Brook Meade GC

Fundraising Director: Kayla Counts—Auxiliary

Technology Director: Corey Good—Auxiliary

Award of Merit Selection Directors:

Dianne Berry—Town and Country GC

Bette Ann Fields—Gateway Acres GC

Dixie Powell—Auxiliary

Community Relations Directors:

Brenda Batey—Sew 'N Sow GC

Doris Weakley—Tyne Meade GC

Volunteer Opportunities



Like all good things, Laura Dowling's holiday decor in the mansion must unfortunately come to an end...

Starting Monday, January 6th we will begin to take down and disassemble the trees, garlands, floral arrangements, and other elements throughout the mansion. If you are interested, we would love your help with this process!

Many of you had the opportunity to work with Sheri, David and Ken during the installation, and we are pleased to welcome them back to help coordinate the deinstall.

We are looking for volunteers Monday, January 6 - Friday, January 10 with two shifts from 8 am - 12 pm and 1 pm - 5 pm.

Duties will include:

- 1. removing wire from ornaments and ribbon**
- 2. flattening ribbon**
- 3. sorting and boxing ornaments, ribbon and faux flowers**
- 4. carrying small boxes of ornaments and ribbon**
- 5. removing wire from garland and faux trees**

No volunteer will be on a ladder or carrying heavy boxes.

Please let us know if you are interested in helping, and if so, what days/times you are available. Friends are welcome too!

Sarah Sperling —Vice-President of Museum Affairs, Cheekwood

SSperling@cheekwood.org

CULTIVATING HOME

LIFE WELL TENDED

WELCOME TO THE 35TH
ANNUAL

Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville

January 31–February 2, 2025

**Calling all HSMT Garden Club Members!
The Antiques & Garden Show of Nashville needs YOU!**

**Sign up to be a garden docent at one of the most famous,
traditional, garden-abundant shows in our town!**

Register to volunteer at the following link:

