



*Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee*  
AT CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF HSMT



### **SNEAK PEEK OF WHAT'S INSIDE:**

- *CHEEKWOOD DONATION*
- *DOORSTEP DINNERS*
- *MEMBER SPOTLIGHT*
- *GARDEN CLUB SPOTLIGHT*
- *UNEXPECTED BEAUTY*
- *FUN & GAMES*
- *CALENDAR*
- *VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!*

**[CLICK HERE TO  
MAKE A  
DONATION TO  
HSMT](#)**

## **From our President Carla Nelson**

It goes without saying that this year has been anything but normal or predictable. A devastating tornado, a pandemic with severe economic consequences, and then a derecho that the Tennessean called "the worst straight-line wind event to cross Middle Tennessee since the July 13, 2004 derecho". Businesses have temporarily or permanently closed and fundraising events - the main revenue source for many nonprofits - have been postponed or cancelled including many of our HSMT events. Because of that, we've become creative. Thank you all for supporting our first three 'Doorstep Dinners'. They've been very successful raising several thousand dollars for HSMT. Doorstep Dinners are perfect for dinner at home or a thoughtful gift for friends and neighbors. We have a few other creative ideas in the works with more information to share with you soon!

We've added some fun new sections to the newsletter that I hope you'll enjoy. I look forward to the day when we can all come together for a membership meeting or fun event. Until then, please be safe and stay in touch.

Best,  
Carla

# CHEERS!



“Into every garden a little rain must fall” – but neither a summer rain shower nor the social distancing restrictions of Spring 2020 prevented Horticultural Society President, Carla Nelson from presenting Cheekwood President/CEO, Jane MacLeod with our annual donation. Meeting in the newly opened Bracken Children’s Garden (with masks and 6 feet between them), Carla and Jane admired the beauty of the garden along with the designated memorial and honorarium plaques provided by bequests to HSMT.

All HSMT member Garden Clubs are listed on the beautiful bronze marker prominently installed in a limestone wall, while a smaller plaque nestled in a nearby planter is in memory of Past Members of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee.

This year's donation was gratefully received by Jane McLeod who extolled the 60-year relationship between the HSMT and Cheekwood.

There’s something magical about this oasis, and with the support of our HSMT member garden clubs, we are continuing the tradition of welcoming all to the wonderful world of horticulture.

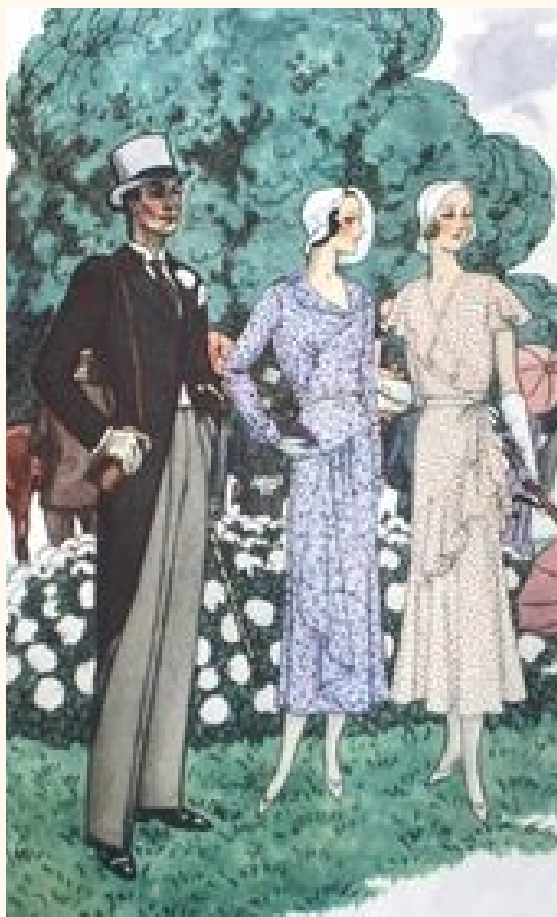


## Doorstep Dinners -fundraising reimaged

As unforeseen postponements of HSMT's Spring 2020 fundraisers became a reality and the advent of staying at home became a norm, the idea of DOORSTEP Dinners was born. By partnering with caterer Danielle Kates who prepares and delivers gourmet dinners (to your doorstep), HSMT members have ordered again and again, generously allowing our organization to maintain a flow of donations that would not have been realized due to the cancellations of our scheduled events.

Watch for the email notice of another DOORSTEP dinner scheduled for late August. Think about a porch party with few friends or possibly a picnic at Cheekwood to view the spectacular Chihuly installation. Several new additions to the opportunity will make this dinner a MUST.





## Garden Club Spotlight

The **Town and Country Garden Club** was established in 1930 by a group of Nashville Women friends as a reason to gather together during the great depression to exchange books, talk about gardening and enjoy their friendships without spending money during the difficult times. They prided themselves in being “dirt gardeners”, which was their way of saying they would actually enjoy getting their hands dirty while gardening and weren’t just arranging flowers!

They were concerned with matters of conservation and wilderness protection and were involved in the Blue Star highway sign, saving stone walls and historic structures and deterring over development of housing around Radnor Lake. In 1980 The Club celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special luncheon in Franklin, TN and a program presented by Duncan Callicott.

The Town and Country Garden Club of Nashville membership still embraces the value of the earlier Club by continuing to carry forward the ideals of the founding members to celebrate friendship, fellowship, learning and a passion for nature.



Cheekwood recently received the final edit of the upcoming Cheekwood Book , and we wanted to share the editor's final version of the section on  
HSMT

**The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee (HSMT), a volunteer-based organization composed of more than fifty garden clubs, is a distinguished contributor to the advancement of Cheekwood. As part of Cheekwood's founding, HSMT dedicated both financial contributions and thousands of volunteer hours in order to realize the institution as a center for the study and education of horticulture. Today, HSMT still plays an active role through a variety of fundraising events, including Sparkling Settings and Martinis and Mistletoe.**



Keith Cutchins DeMoss born November 22, 1925, Franklin, VA passed away peacefully on May 21, 2020 surrounded by family.

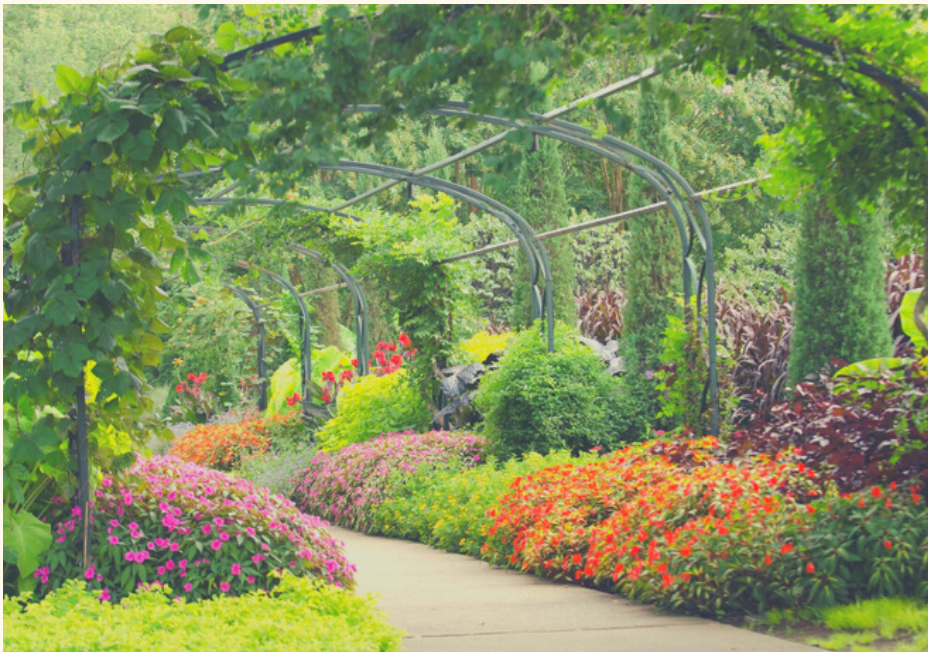
Spending time on the lake came first but was closely followed by her love of gardening and playing bridge. Her love of gardening led to her involvement as President of the Garden Club of Nashville, being awarded the Medal of Merit and the honor of being a flower judge from the Garden Club of America. In addition Keith served as the Lawn and Garden Chair, was a board member at Cheekwood, Travelers Rest and served as Regent of the board for the Ladies of the Hermitage Association and a member of the Camellia society. **As president of the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee (HSMT) she oversaw the move from the Sears building to Cheekwood.**

In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made to The Endowment Fund for the Howe Garden at Cheekwood or HSMT (1200 Forest Park Dr. Nashville, TN 37205) or the Employee Appreciation Fund at Blakeford Court (11 Burton Hills Nashville, TN 37215). There will be a private family service at a later date.

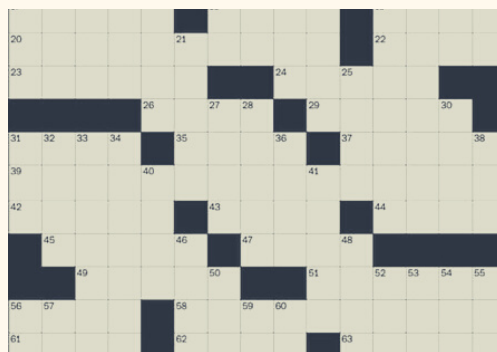
# Fun & Games



**Interactive Online Puzzle of Cheekwood - [Click Here](#)**



**Interactive Online Puzzle of Cheekwood - [Click Here](#)**



**Cheekwood Crossword Puzzle - [Click Here](#)**



## Unexpected Beauty

Shared from the Lewis Miller Design Website

This April in New York City, spring feels different: there is still beauty under the shadow of the virus.

This spring of 2020, because of the pandemic, the whole world is shrouded in a shadow of uncertainty and death. The normally bustling New York is now quiet and empty, full of inexplicable desolation and loneliness ... until a certain morning, when you walked in a corner of Manhattan, you accidentally encountered a large bouquet of flowers, and bumped into the arms of spring's abundance ... You cannot help stopping, can't help lingering, can't help feeling. It turns out that the flowers are still blooming under the haze of the pandemic. It turns out that even though life is so fragile, it is still so beautiful! Therefore, you cannot help curling your lips up and filled with a confidence, because you believe that the pandemic will pass, and the world will be better!

This genius idea for decorating Manhattan with flowers comes from floral designer Lewis Miller, founder of LMD New York (Lewis Miller Design), one of the leading floral design companies in the city. In the past few months, Lewis Miller and the team have been secretly creating what they call "Flower Flash", a flower arrangement in Manhattan trash cans and street corners. "Flower Flash" aims to honor the medical staff and other first responders, to bring joy to New Yorkers who commute on a daily basis, and let in the spring of during the pandemic.

The bright and beautiful flowers that suddenly appeared in seemingly random locals were a surprise that Lewis and his team presented to Manhattan every morning. All works were started at around 5:45am in the morning and completed before sunrise. They never announce in which corner of Manhattan the next "Flower Flash" would be held. Every time they finished the installation, they would paint the sign LMDxNYC in chalk, and then quietly leave. Thus, each creative flower arrangement would bloom in the first rays of sunlight in the morning.... The corners of Manhattan, quiet and empty and filled with inexplicable desolation under the pandemic, suddenly met the bright and luxurious spring flowers, with the warmth and comfort of nature, brought every passerby a heartfelt smile!

Just as Lewis said: "If you can just stop, pause and just have one second of joy....that's amazing because that's one of the things that's so lacking and it's hard." Yes, under the haze of the pandemic, if you can stop and feel the full bloom of spring, the power of life, even if it can bring you only one second of joy and comfort, it is wonderful! We are grateful for all the different forms of effort in the pandemic, and the warmth, hope and love they engendered in us! The pandemic will pass, the flowers will be in full bloom, and the world will be better!









# HSMT & Cheekwood Calendar

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| July 18 - January 10 | Chihuly Exhibition  |
| Postponed - TBD      | General Member Meeting & Fashion Show                     |
| Postponed until 2021 | Community Flower Show                                     |
| August 2020          | Doorstep Dinner   |
| October 4, 2020      | Sunday Brunch   |
| Postponed - TBD      | Ladies Night Out  |
| October 19, 2020     | General Member Meeting<br>at Cheekwood or Online via Zoom |
| October-December     | Patron Donations Campaign                                 |
| December 4, 2020     | Martinis and Mistletoe                                    |
| December 7, 2020     | Sparkling Settings  |

# Volunteers Needed!

**WE NEED YOU!!!**

Are you a talented writer? Or have computer skills? Maybe you enjoy chairing events, serving on committees, meeting with and speaking to groups, working on mailings or helping in the office when needed. No matter what talents you have or what you enjoy doing, HSMT needs you!

- Update and Upload materials to the HSMT website as needed, Computer skills are very helpful
- Write articles and event information for the website and digital newsletters
- Produce digital newsletters using the HSMT template. Computer skills are very helpful
- Outreach and speaking engagements
- Help with mailings
- Work on the HSMT Directory
- Help at the HSMT office when available
- Chair an event or serve on the committee



**WE WANT YOU!**

*Here are just a few projects where we need your talents and abilities. If you don't see the right one for you, we'd love to hear your ideas! HSMT is only as strong as its members and volunteers. You make a difference.*

