



**HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Summer 2025 Newsletter



TABLE OF CONTENTS



HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE

HSMT NEWS

President’s Message	03
Elderberry Cordial Recipe	04
Introducing the New HSMT Logo	05
Spring Membership Meeting Highlights	06
Branching Out Campaign Information	07
First <i>Branching Out</i> campaign tree planted	08



Fleurs de Villes *Cheekwood—August 1 - 10, 2025*

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Seeds of Heritage” at Belmont Mansion	12
Fleurs de Villes at Cheekwood	14
Fall Membership Meeting	15
Patrons’ Cocktail Supper	16
Dillard’s Fashion Show	17
Sparkling Settings	18
Contact HSMT	19



Branching Out Kickoff Party Highlights 09



Visit

HSMTN.ORG

Message from HSMT President Deby Pitts



Spring cleaning has been in full bloom at the Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee!

We've been busy refreshing our look and getting organized for the summer season ahead.

Our logo and social media presence have received a bright new update, and we've given our HSMT office, files and procedures a much-needed tidy-up. Camille Chaffin is doing a wonderful job as our new HSMT Administrator, and Abbie Griffith is hard at work on automating our financial management systems. We are also streamlining and concentrating our fundraising efforts on just three special events (*Starry Starry Night* Patron Cocktail Supper [Tuesday, October 14], *Branching Out* Fashion Show and Tea Party [Saturday, October 18] and *Sparkling Settings* [Monday, December 1]). Another focus is upgrading the quality and variety of our educational offerings [look for more information on these developments in the Fall HSMT Newsletter]. We encourage everyone to attend these fun and exciting events that are designed to be shared with family and friends.

With summer just around the corner, it's the perfect time to plan your garden parties and cookouts. We're excited to share our refreshed logo in this newsletter, and you can also check it out on our website at hsmtn.org, on our Facebook page (Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee) and on Instagram feed (@hsmtenn). Follow us for a wealth of inspiration, from gardening and floral design ideas to tips for making your outdoor gatherings even more beautiful.

We'd love your help in inspiring others! Share your favorite easy recipes that use fresh ingredients from your garden or local produce stand. Let us know about upcoming garden club news or events that would interest our members. And don't forget to pass along your tried-and-true garden tips and tricks—especially those that help us all prepare for the perfect summer garden party. Feel free to share your ideas with either Camille Chaffin (camille@hsmtn.org) or me (debypitts@icloud.com). Oh, the magic we can create together!

Happy Gardening!

Deby



Easy Elderflower Cordial



[Click Here for Recipe](#)



**HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY
OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE**

This logo refresh was designed by James Muriel, a brand designer (whose services were generously underwritten by Enterprise Electric and Jim Seabury) with the collaboration of a small focus group made up of young and old, new and longer-term HSMT members which included Camille Chaffin, Lacey Moore, Ashley Henry, Kayla Counts, Lucie Cammack, Nikki Peal and Deby Pitts.

James presented his initial concepts which this small focus group reviewed, selecting one concept to further refine. This simple more modern logo should work well for HSMT as we begin rolling into our second hundred years of existence!

2031 is just around the corner!!

April 21, 2025

Spring Membership Meeting

Highlights

Panel Discussion on *How to Plant a Tree...For Free*

Panelists:

Jennifer Smith, Metro Nashville Horticulturist

Kelly Tipler, Executive Director, Nashville Tree Foundation

Jason Sprouls, Root Nashville Program Manager

Michael Davie, Master Arborist, Barlett Tree Experts Conservancy



Introduction of new officer nominees

President-elect—Lacey Moore

Treasurer—Abbie Griffith



**Introduction of *Branching Out* and the
Plant A Tree Campaign Initiative**

**Plans for *Branching Out* kickoff party,
Fashion Show and Tea at Dillard's
and *Branching Out* Patrons' Cocktail Supper**

Branching Out Campaign

The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee's *Branching Out* campaign will complement *Root Nashville's PLANT A TREE* campaign—to plant a half million trees by 2050! This mission-driven program will make a difference in the ecological health of our community because trees help clean air, mitigate stormwater, provide wildlife habitat and add their own beauty and natural character for all to enjoy.

THE TREES WE PLANT WILL BE OUR LEGACY TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Root Nashville is a public-private campaign led by Metro Nashville and the Cumberland River Compact to plant 500,000 trees across Davidson County by 2050. Many organizations have *Plant A Tree* campaigns. Some, including the HSMT *Plant A Tree* initiative, are being done in collaboration with *Root Nashville*, which is the first-of-its kind public-private partnership in Nashville. The campaign is led by the Cumberland River Compact, which leads the day-to-day operations of the campaign, and Metro Water Services, the lead campaign partner from Metro Nashville.

Instagram post @hsmtenn



One Tree, One Tribute, One Beginning

The Harpeth Bend Garden Club planted the very first tree of our *Branching Out* campaign on April 9, 2025—in loving memory of a former member.

This meaningful moment marks the beginning of our shared journey to plant 500,000 trees across Nashville.

Every tree tells a story.

Let's grow this legacy together.



Planted & documented—one of many to come.

Branching Out Kickoff Party
May 1, 2025
at the home of Deby and Keith Pitts



Branching Out Committee

**L to R: Lacey Moore, Camille Chaffin, Ashley Henry,
Stacey Rhodes, Deby Pitts, Nikki Peal, Lucie Cammack,
Kayla Counts**

Branching Out Kickoff Party



**Revi Ferrer, Mimi Pohlman,
Stacey Rhodes & Leigh Gillig**

Photos by Stacey Rhodes



Deby Pitts



Carla Nelson & Jennifer Smith



**Laila Isa, Camille Chaffin, Doris Weakley,
Jackie Bellar & Gerry Sams**

Branching Out Kickoff Party

Food by
*Corner Market
Catering Company*



Bar service provided
by Bill Forrester



BELMONT MANSION

"Seeds of Heritage: The Moravian Roots of Old Salem's Gardens"

A Spring Garden Event to Benefit Belmont Mansion with
Eric Jackson, Director of Horticulture, Old Salem Museum & Gardens

June 7, 2025, Belmont Mansion is presenting a Spring Garden Event. The afternoon begins with a talk on the **horticultural history of Old Salem Museum and Gardens**, followed by a **tour of the Belmont Gardens** and reception in the **Grand Salon of Belmont Mansion**.

Join Eric Jackson, Director of Horticulture at Old Salem Museum and Gardens, as he explores how **education, natural history, and land stewardship** shaped the gardens, landscapes, and forests of Old Salem.

Old Salem Museums & Gardens honors this heritage through **historic plant preservation**, seed saving, and horticulture education, bridging the past and present in meaningful and inspiring ways.

Belmont Mansion is the 1853 home of Adelia and Joseph Acklen, known throughout 19th century Tennessee for its stunning architecture and gardens. For details on how to join us visit, www.belmontmansion.com/events



The Miksch Garden, Old Salem Museum and Gardens
“Old Salem’s Horticulture program is focused on re-creating a landscape reflecting early Salem where utility, practicality and beauty unite.”

When: Saturday, June 7, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

Where: The Leu Center for the Visual Arts & Belmont Mansion

Tickets: \$60/person; \$110/couple



Seeds of Heritage:
The Moravian Roots of
Old Salem's Gardens

Saturday, June 7th
at 3:30 pm

A lecture, garden tour, and
reception at Belmont Mansion

Join Eric Jackson, the Director
of Horticulture at Old Salem
Museum & Gardens, as he
explores how education,
natural history, and land
stewardship shaped the
gardens, landscapes, and
forests of Old Salem.

For more info and tickets
scan the QR code or visit:
belmontmansion.com/events



All proceeds to benefit Belmont Mansion.

***As a Thank You to the community and a celebration of 172nd
anniversary of the Belmont Mansion Gardens, the Belmont Mansion
Association is offering a group sales discount on tickets to the June 7th
Spring Garden Event,
Seeds of Heritage: The Moravian Roots of Old Salem's Gardens.***

**Groups of five or more people may purchase tickets for \$55 each.
Tickets may be purchased through the Belmont Mansion website at
www.belmontmansion.com/events**

FLEURS DE VILLES

August 1 - 10, 2025

This global flower show sensation has captivated audiences across five countries with over 130 immersive floral exhibitions celebrating extraordinary local floral artistry. Their debut 10-day exhibition at Cheekwood marks the first time their world-famous, one-of-a-kind floral masterpieces will be showcased at a historic estate in the United States. The vibrant celebration of art and flowers invites visitors to vote for their favorite design—and promises a truly enchanting experience for all ages.

Cheekwood Estate & Gardens 1200 Forrest Park Drive Nashville, TN 37205

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



Branching Out Patrons' Cocktail Supper
“A Starry Starry Night”

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Join us at the
**Bradford Robertson Color Garden
& Botanic Hall
Cheekwood Estate & Gardens**



The Horticultural Society of Middle Tennessee
and Dillard's present a

FASHION SHOW & TEA

Fashion Show begins
at 12 noon
Open to public

Tea Party follows
Fashion Show

Saturday, October 18, 2025
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Supporting the
"Plant a Tree" Campaign

Dillard's
The Mall at Green Hills
Nashville

Branching Out
THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF
MIDDLE TENNESSEE

VIP Front Row Seating and
Tea Party tickets
can be purchased in advance.

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 hsmttn.org or email or call us.



**Camille Chaffin
HSMT Administrator
camille@hsmttn.org
(615) 353-6978**

