



The Scoop

PLANTINGS TO ATTRACT BIRDS

By: Linda Schien, CMGR

Inside this issue:

MGRC Officers 2

An Evening Stroll 2

Recipe of the 3

The "Dirty" 4

Calendar & Events 5

With the tree and shrub planting season coming up, now is a good time to prepare your yard to attract our feathered friends. Variety is the key element as birds live in different habitats. One aspect of creating different habitats is to offer food and nesting sites at all levels. There are four basic levels to be considered.

These are:

Grass level – 2 inches to 1 foot high

Shrub level – 2 to 5 feet high

Small tree level – 5 to 15 feet high

Tall tree level – 15 to 40 feet high

When planning your yard try to add any missing levels.

Your plants should provide two things.

- Provide seeds or berries that birds eat.
- Provide places for nesting.
- Choose plants whose berries and seeds mature at different times to provide food year round. Also choose trees and

shrubs that have branching structures dense enough to support nests, but open enough to allow the birds to move around. Below are some recommended plants for all levels.

Grass level

- Regular turf grass.
- A minimum area of 10 foot by 10 foot of uncut grass.

Shrub level

- Honeysuckle shrubs
- Juniper shrubs 2 to 3 feet high
- Barberry
- A loose pile of brush with limbs, branches and old Christmas trees.

Small tree level

- Crab apple – a variety with abundant small apples
- Juniper – 10 to 20 feet tall
- Hawthorn

Tall tree level

- Cones and cover: pine, spruce, hemlock
- Seeds: maple, ash (female



Birds Feeding in Short Grass:
gaiatribe.geekuniversalis.com

tree), elm, birch

- Berries: Cherry, mulberry, hackberry
- Nuts: oak

Also if not hazardous, leave dead trees standing and dead limbs on trees. These are a favorite of downy and red-bellied woodpeckers. Other birds also use old woodpecker holes for nesting and roosting at night.

Source: *The Bird Feeder Book* –
Donald & Lillian Stokes



AN EVENING STROLL

BY: Linda Schien, CMRG

- 2010
MGRG OFFICERS
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I am the proud owner of an eighty pound saddle backed husky named Luthor. The Thor part of his name is because my other half wanted his big dog to have a big name. Thor is the Norse god of war, thunder and strength. Luthor is of northern lineage so his coat is so thick it puts Monsanto carpet to shame. Due to this thick coat our walks are generally either early morning or late evening to avoid the heat. We walk Luthor on a retractable leash. It extends to sixteen feet but can be retracted and locked at the push of a button.

Luthor and I were out one evening last year in the early fall. There was a full moon and the night was clear and bright. He was sniffing everything as usual and trotting along in between sniffs having an enjoyable time. We were headed back down our driveway when I caught a flash of white, to my right. It was at that exact moment that one of either Einstein's or Newton's laws came into effect. The one that reads - one sixteen foot lead X the pull of an eighty pound dog = the owner being dragged along the ground on her stomach.



Internet Photo

Yes, there I was face down in my fescue being dragged along by Luthor the thunder dog. He was chasing the white flash. I hung on figuring the intended victim was the neighbor's cat and felt it was better to sustain a few injuries than explain why Fluffy had become Luthor's dinner. When we ap-

proached the rock garden I let go of the lead for self preservation. About two seconds later Luthor let out a loud yelp and the most horrific odor of skunk permeated the air. The quiet of the neighborhood was broken by hollers of "Oh my God", and the sound of windows slamming shut all around us. I picked myself up, brushed off the grass, checked out the scrapes on my chin then searched for Luthor. He was running along with the side of his face in the grass trying to get the skunk spray off. He huffed and snorted and shook and carried on so much that I rushed him into the house afraid that he might have skunk spray in his eyes. I wiped his face carefully then used the peroxide, baking soda, dishwashing remedy to clean him up.

It was after the panic subsided that I realized he had been sprayed from nose to tail so took him outside at ten PM to wash him. I scrubbed him twice and thought he was much better. We went in the house and called it a night. Two hours later my other half came home. I heard him holler , "Oh my God", and he hurriedly opened all the windows.

The next morning I scrubbed myself but my hands still smelled . Luthor still smelled; his lead smelled and the house still needed a good airing out. As I was driving out I saw the skunk walking across the lawn without a care in the world.

The internet says: Occasional skunk sightings in a neighborhood are not a cause for alarm. Skunks are generally easy-going and will not intentionally bother people. In fact, skunks may bene-

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

BAT BITES

From: Katherine Smith, Editor, CMGR

Ingredients:

- 1 (4 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 8 oz. soft, mild goat cheese, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup pesto
- 2 Tbs. coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 Tbs. poppy seeds*
- 8 pitted olives, sliced

- 32 peppercorns
- 32 triangular blue corn chips

Instructions:

- Mash together cream cheese, goat cheese and pesto.
- Chill for 40 minutes

* Use regular grind black pepper as a substitute for poppy seeds.

Prep Time: 50 minutes
Yield: 16 Servings

Note: This recipe was published by *All You*, OCTOBER 2005 and listed on the web at www.myrecipes.com
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Stroll

(Continued from page 2)

fit humans by eating many insects and rodents many regard as pests. Maybe so little skunk but Pepe Le Pew has nothing on you.

Editor's Note:

In the past we have had skunks living under our house. After dolling out \$\$\$ for a professional to remove the skunks without success the stroke of ingenuity came to my other half. He constructed an electrical fence to

surround the house. Results — POSITIVE. Our neighbors, who border the golf course and the river, have skunks playing in their yards and under their homes. In fact, one neighbor had to vacate their house for a month due to these pesky critters. So Linda, these critters are everywhere — everywhere except the Memphis area — none there!



THE “DIRTY DOZEN”

By: Katherine Smith, Editor, CTMG

As Master Gardeners we may be asked about the validity of “The Dirty Dozen”. Dewayne Trail, Rutherford County Director Emeritus forwarded the following information from Dr. David Lockwood, Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee.

“Some of you might have received inquiries regarding the “Dirty Dozen” which is a list of fruit and vegetable crops posing the greatest

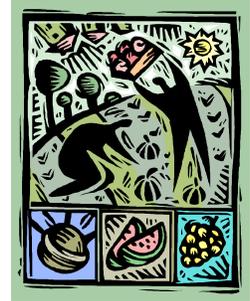
health risk to consumers in terms of pesticide contamination. I ran across this article recently which refutes claims made on the media. I thought it might be of interest and use to some of you.”

Please go to this link to view the information to which Dr. Lockwood refers.

[http://thepacker.com/Pay-no-attention-to-Dr--Oz/FreshTalkBlog.aspx?oid=](http://thepacker.com/Pay-no-attention-to-Dr--Oz/FreshTalkBlog.aspx?oid=1249566&fid=PACKER-FRESH-TALK&aid=117)

[1249566&fid=PACKER-FRESH-TALK&aid=117](http://thepacker.com/Pay-no-attention-to-Dr--Oz/FreshTalkBlog.aspx?oid=1249566&fid=PACKER-FRESH-TALK&aid=117)

Editor’s Note:
“The Packer” is a great website to research the latest information on our fruits and vegetables. I urge each of you to do your own research on anything you “see, hear, or read” for verification. The University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences and the Tennessee Extension offices are excellent places to start. ■



“The vast majority of fruits & vegetables are produced by family owned and operated farms.”

MGRC 2010 FALL EXTRAVAGANZA



 <h1 style="margin: 0;">October 2010</h1> 						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day 	12	13	14	15	16 Library Series-Smyrna
17	18 MGRC MEETING	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 BROWN BAG (last)	29	30
31						

Upcoming Events

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
On-Going thru October 31		Chihuly at Cheekwood — Glasswork in the Garden	Cheekwood Botanical Gardens—Nashville, TN	615-356-9000
Sept 30-Nov 28		Pumpkin Field Day	W TN Research & Edu Center Jackson, TN	http://west.tennessee.edu
October 7		2nd Annual Fall Plant Sale & Garden Lectures	W TN Research & Edu Center Jackson, TN	http://west.tennessee.edu
October 9 - October 10		Gesneriad Show	Cheekwood Botanical Gardens Nashville, Tennessee	615-356-9000
Oct 16		DCMG Demo Garden Tour & Bulb Sale	Ellington Ag Center	Davidson Co. Master Gardeners
Oct 16-17		Music & Molasses Festival	Ellington Ag Center & Museum Nashville, TN	Davidson Co. Master Gardeners



Master Gardeners of Rutherford County



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www.mastergardeners-rc.org

"The Scoop" is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is due the fourth Friday of each month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri-Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single, or \$35 for a couple residing at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are pro-rated for new members only.

Memberships in the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County are open to those interested in learning, teaching, and volunteering for the purpose of educating the community in all phases of gardening.

Please note: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hours, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year. Attendance at meetings counts as 1.5 hours of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration.

Trade and brand names are used only for information. UT/TSU Extension does not guarantee nor warrant the standard of any product mentioned; neither does it imply approval of any product to the exclusion of others which also may be suitable.

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension, and Tennessee State University