



Master Gardener Thymes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

MAR / APR 2010

GET READY FOR SPRING WITH THREE GREAT SPEAKERS

Erica Glasener, Host of HDTV's *A Gardener's Diary*, will be the keynote speaker at Garden Views 2010, a regional gardening seminar, on Saturday, April 10, 2010, from 9 am - 2 pm, at the Renaissance Center Theater, 1200 East Center Street, Kingsport, Tennessee. Erica is nationally known as the host of HGTV's *A Gardener's Diary*. Joining her will be **Holly Scoggins**, Virginia Tech horticulturist, and UT Gardens' **James Newburn**.



Erica Glasener

Glasener will open the seminar presenting *On the Road with A Gardener's Diary*, an illustrated tour of great gardens, gardeners and plants that have inspired her and how she gardens. In the afternoon she will speak on *Creating a Garden for Year Around Pleasure*, a look at combinations of plants that make a garden appealing in every season. Dr. Scoggins will delight with *Weird, Wild Plants - Unusual and Easy to Grow*, and James Newburn will discuss the timely topic *Community Gardens*.

Tickets are \$25 for this event and lunch is included for the first 100 people. Ten special *VIP Evening with Erica* tickets are available for \$50 each and entitle the holder to a Meet and Greet with Erica on Friday evening in addition to the seminar Saturday. Tickets are available at Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce, 151 East Main Street or at the door. Master Gardeners can earn 4 CEUs.

The seminar is sponsored by Eastman Chemical Company with additional support from Johnson City Power Board and Plantboy Landscape Management and Garden Center, proceeds from the seminar benefit Keep Kingsport Beautiful's beautification and education programs. For more information or to reserve your spot call Keep Kingsport Beautiful at 423-392-8814 or e-mail clean@kingsportchamber.org.

MIZE ADDS MORE SEMINARS

Mize Garden Centers in Johnson City and Gray have added more seminars to their 2010 garden lecture series. All talks are 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Programs are free, but you must register at 434-1800 (Johnson City) or 467-2300 (Gray). New seminars added are:

March 6	Mize Gray	<i>Attracting Birds to Your Garden</i> Master Gardener and avid birder Bill Grigsby
March 27	Mize Johnson City	<i>Canning and Preserving Your Harvest</i> Joe McCray and Connie Sharp, Washington County Extension
April 10	Mize Gray	<i>Canning and Preserving Your Harvest</i> Joe McCray and Connie Sharp, Washington County Extension

GREEN AND GROWING SEMINARS RETURN

Green and Growing, a series of lunchtime gardening seminars, will be presented from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on the first three Thursdays in March at the Kingsport Public Library Mead Auditorium. In these free sessions, both beginners and experts alike will learn how to work with nature to create beautiful, healthy gardens. This series is sponsored by Keep Kingsport Beautiful, Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), Kingsport Public Library, and Sullivan County Extension.

The seminar topics are:

March 4 – Growing Vegetables in East Tennessee - Learn the where, what, when, and how of growing delicious food in your home garden with Master Gardener Ben Hunter.

March 11 – Urban Composting – Even if you live in the city, you can make your own compost – the very best way to improve your soil. Learn how with local gardening guru Roy Odom.

March 18 – Green and Frugal Gardening - Learn the joys of saving money in your garden while also being kind to the environment with Jeanne Cope, Master Gardener and Kingsport Times News gardening columnist.

Bring a bag lunch and spend your noon break learning how to make your landscape greener. Each session will include free handouts with recommended plants for Northeast Tennessee and lists of books and web sites for further reference. You can earn 1 CEU for each seminar. For more information call Keep Kingsport Beautiful 423-392-8814 or e-mail ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY – PLANT A TREE!

The town of Unicoi is looking for volunteers to help beautify its new park. Unicoi is sponsoring an Arbor Day tree-planting on Saturday, **March 6, 2010**. The tree planting will begin at 10:00 am and a free lunch will be provided for volunteers. Most tree holes will be pre-dug so planting won't be difficult. There will also be nature games and activities for children and garden and tree talks for adults. Volunteers will also be spreading mulch, and will need to bring tools, gloves, or wheelbarrows if possible.

The location of the new park is at the Bogart-Bowman Cabin (5012 Unicoi Drive). To get to the park from Johnson City, take exit 32 off I-26, make a left towards Unicoi, and then make another left onto Unicoi Drive. The park is 2 miles north on Unicoi Drive on the right side of the road at the intersection with Oak Road. All ages and skill levels are welcome. If you are able to help, please contact the Town of Unicoi at 423-743-7162 so they can plan for the meal.





Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
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If you missed the 2010 Master Gardener Winter School, you missed a really great time! As a participant in this year's winter school, I have been reminded that our Master Gardener program is all about people. We must acknowledge people's interests, differences, contributions, and ideas. Each individual MG chooses to stay involved in the Master Gardener program because they are benefiting in some way. Personal interaction is very important. MGs get their personal interaction in many ways – meetings, leadership opportunities, educating, one-

on-one conversation, and many other ways.

As we embark on the 2010 gardening season, I want to challenge you to stay connected with those Master Gardeners in your area. If you haven't heard from a particular MG in a while, then give them a call, send them a card, send them an email – just make sure to maintain contact. Hopefully, you will take advantage of opportunities to meet new MGs in our area. Our NETMGA has continued to grow. I encourage you to continue to engage and support NETMGA. The NETMGA brings our group together to accomplish great things. What other organization offers you connection to a major land grant institution, networking with gardeners from six counties, and an opportunity to contribute to your community.

EXTEND THE GROWING SEASON

Master Gardener Ben Hunter will discuss *Vegetable Gardening in East Tennessee - Extend your Growing Season* on Saturday, March 6th 10am - 12pm at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area In Elizabethton. Ben has been gardening for 63 years and has over 60 raised gardening beds. He gardens with an extensive use of compost. He is a Certified Master Gardener, a retired Chemist and retired Volunteer Fireman. The talk is open to the public and geared toward anyone who is a current gardener or has an interest in gardening for the first time. Ben will share his vast experience and successes in gardening.

Sycamore Shoals is located at 1651 W. Elk Ave, Elizabethton, TN 37643. Phone number is 423-543-5808

COME AND SMELL THE ROSES

The Tennessee Rose Society and the Holston Rose Society (both of Knoxville) are co-sponsoring a rose seminar on Saturday, March 13 at UT Knoxville on the Agricultural Campus. Five forty-minute seminars will be presented with information for novice and experienced rose growers. In addition to the seminars, plants and garden-related items will be for sale throughout the day. Door prizes and drawings will also occur. For TN Master Gardeners seminars count for Continuing Education Units. Pre-registration fee is only \$10.

go to <http://www.tennesseerosesociety.org/> and click on "Events" for agenda, registration fee and additional information,



Hybrid Tea
'Touch of Class'
Steve and Hannah Franklin

Learn A New Skill at the Grafting Workshop

Two grafting classes will be held on March 25, 2010 at the Sullivan County Farm Bureau. The first class is at 9:30 a.m. and the second one is at 6:30 p.m. (They are the same class, so just attend one.) If interested, pre-register with Chris Ramsey to reserve rootstock. Also, participants need to collect scion wood in the next 10 days if they are interested in grafting a particular tree. Some scion wood (top part of graft) will be supplied. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Chris Ramsey at ramsey@utk.edu or 423-279-2723.



www.hort.cornell.edu/mng/history.html

CHRIS IS LOOKING FOR HELP

Want to work on a one-time project? Chris Ramsey is looking for a few good volunteers to help with two upcoming workshops. The two events are:

UT Extension Grafting Workshop Thursday, March 25

Blountville Location 5 volunteers needed. Call Chris (279-2723) or email chris.ramsey@utk.edu

East Tennessee Nursery Assoc Plant Auction at Sycamore Shoals

Friday April 23 – 3 volunteers needed to help with carrying and cataloging plants

Saturday April 24 – 3 volunteers needed to help with auction.

Call Keith Hart at 542-1818 (Carter County Extension Office.)

READY FOR A ROAD TRIP? HEAD TO MEMPHIS!

Memphis Area Master Gardeners invite everyone to join them for the 6th annual 'Spring Fling' at the Red Barn, on March 26 and 27, 2010. The Fling will be held at the Agricenter International, 7777 Walnut Grove Road, Memphis, TN. 38120. It is fun and free!

OR....TAKE A SHORTER TRIP TO KNOXVILLE

UT Extension & the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association present their 5th Annual Flower & Garden Show & Sale on Saturday, April 17th, 2010 from 9AM-4 PM at the Sevier County Fair Grounds, 754 Old Knoxville Highway, Sevierville, Tennessee. The show will include vendors with flowers, plants, trees, shrubs, yard art and many other garden related items. Educational speakers will present programs at 10AM, 11AM, and 1PM. There will be a kid's craft area, live music, snacks, and a live auction at 3:30. Go to www.SCAMGA.org for additional information, or contact Les Williams, Show Publicity Chairman, 865-938-1895

31st SPRING FESTIVAL COMES TO WARRIOR'S PATH



Reading the Season with Marty Silver at Warrior's Path State Park on April 16, 17, and 18, 2010. There will be seminars conducted by professionals and nature walks led by trained naturalists. Visit <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/parks/WarriorsPath/pdf/SpringFest.pdf> or contact Marty Silver 423-239-8531 or Marty.Silver@state.tn.us for a full listing of all the talks and events,

EXCHANGE PLACE SPRING GARDEN FAIR

The 26th Annual Spring Garden Fair will be held Saturday, April 24, 10 am-5 pm and Sunday, April 25, 12-5 pm at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Ore-bank Road in Kingsport.

This is the oldest garden fair in the region and will feature thousands of plants for sale - perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs - with the emphasis on herbs, natives and heirloom plants (including a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes). Garden related arts and crafts will also be available.

The Fair is an educational and family event that fills the grounds and buildings of the historic site. Gardening and farming experts will lead "Talks and Walks" around the site. Area Master Gardeners will be on hand throughout the weekend to answer home gardening questions. Children's activities abound with Girl Scouts helping children create garden crafts and area 4-H groups showing animals. Ol' timey music and traditional foods add to the atmosphere.

A "Baaaa...ck Porch Sale" will be filled with "books, garden items, pottery, and great doodads, gizmos, and thingamadoodles". Proceeds from this sale are used to feed the sheep and other animals at Exchange Place. (*If you have items to donate call Kay Ann: 288-2468 or Exchange Place: 288-6071 (no clothes please).*)

The Fair strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible with recycling, composting, and re-using. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own plant carriers and to bring used nursery pots for recycling / reusing. Admission is \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children. For more information, call 423-288-6071. To volunteer to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth, please call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail at jonmoore@embarqmail.com. Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up, hospitality and take-down/clean up. To volunteer, call Jo Anne Medlin at 288-2879 or e-mail



CONFERENCE NOTES FROM OSU SHORT COURSE

Submitted by Brenda Warner

The OSU Nursery Shortcourse was an absolutely terrific event. The problem was that there were too many good speakers and only one of me. I attended Tony Avent's talk on unusual plants, both of Bill Hendick's talks, and Ken Cockran from the Secret Arboretum. All were so inspiring but the best was Ken Cockran as he spoke of Richard Louv's book about returning children to nature. He incorporated a team of panelists - the Akron Garden Club, a nurseryman, and a member of the OARDC Ground's crew with the thought that it is only accomplished through team work. Bill Hendrick from Lake County, OH was also inspiring and I had the chance to follow up. Both he and his wife invited me to their nursery in Ohio.

BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND WORK DAY SET

A work day will be held at the Boundless Playground at Warriors Path State Park Saturday, April 24th starting at 8am. Community volunteers will be providing help for the Playground and Braille Trail areas and Master Gardeners are needed to head up teams for weeding, planting and mulching. Workers will meet to review the work to be done and assign areas of responsibility ahead of the work day. To volunteer, contact Nina Hedrick (hedrick@chartertn.net, 239-9604), Joy Moore (jnjmoore@embarqmail.com, 348-6572) or Gwyn Duncan (geduncan@charter.net, 239-0460).



REGIONAL GARDEN SERIES OFFERED IN JONESBOROUGH

The UT Institute for Agriculture and the Washington County Extension Office are offering a series of garden lectures *For Beginners and Hobby Gardeners* from Feb. 23 through April 6 in Jonesborough. Classes will meet at 6:30 PM at the Washington County Extension Office on 206 West Main Street in Jonesborough. The registration fee is \$10.00 per class or participants may sign up for all 12 classes for \$100.00. Refreshments will be served. To register for classes or for more information, please contact John Hamrick at 423-753-1680 or visit the Washington Co. extension website at www.washington.tennessee.edu. The schedule of classes is listed below:

March 2	Designing Annual Gardens
March 4	Designing Perennial Gardens
March 9	Lawn Maintenance
March 11	Soil Management for the Lawn and Garden
March 16	Small Fruit in the Home Garden
March 18	Shade Gardening
March 23	Attracting Birds to Your Backyard
April 1	Gardening on a Budget
April 6	Walking Tour of Jonesborough Gardens

Come "Through the Garden Gate" in Jonesborough



On Saturday, May 29th the Tuesday Garden Club and Schubert Club will be hosting the 14th Annual Garden Gala. Once again visitors will be invited *Through the Garden Gate* to enjoy this walking tour of some of the historic Jonesborough's public and private gardens. As always, volunteers from Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners Association are welcomed as hosts and hostesses in the gardens and other volunteer staffing areas, including assisting vendors and registration activities. For more volunteer information, contact Joletta Woodward at 423-282-3234 or myjoy-bird@hotmail.com.

SPREAD THE LOVE OF GARDENING AT CARVER COMMUNITY GARDEN

- If you have a love of vegetable gardening,
- if you're looking for a way to get your credit hours this year,
- and if you want to have the satisfaction of knowing you're really helping someone provide food for their table,

then consider volunteering at the Carver Community Garden this summer. The city of Johnson City is currently moving the garden to its permanent location, on the North side of Carver Park, which is located at: 322 W Watauga Ave near downtown.

There is a big need for Master Gardeners to volunteer to be "on hand and available" to answer inexperienced gardener's questions, at predetermined times, throughout the growing season.. There is a shady pavilion, convenient bathrooms and a well stocked tool shed, as well as cold water drinking fountains inside the center for volunteers. MGs may come for an hour, an afternoon, or an evening, whatever suits their schedules.

There will also be monthly workdays when volunteers and gardeners can come together to do garden tidy up, mulching, or any other maintenance chores that are needed. A schedule for these workdays is in the process of being developed.

And last but not least, there will be gardening classes held on every subject a new gardener might need: how to plant, thin, maintain, harvest and preserve their vegetables. The goal of this garden is to be fully organic, and there will be ongoing classes teaching pest management techniques, soil building techniques, composting and seed saving. MGs interested in teaching a class should contact Sam Jones. All classes will be held at the same time each week, and that time will be determined by the volunteers themselves.

If this is something you're interested in please call Sam Jones at 349-6119 or email her at: simpleintn@yahoo.com.



Established in 1958, Carver Park is a 6-acre neighborhood park. Amenities include two basketball courts, fitness trail, multi-use court, pavilion, playground and recreation center. The recreation center is equipped with a gymnasium, weight room, library, meeting space, teen room, arts and crafts area, and kitchen.

LOOKING FOR A PROJECT IN JOHNSON CITY?

Connie Deegan is looking for the possibility of Master Gardeners doing a few hour long programs at the Johnson City Senior Center in March or April. She's thinking along the lines of garden preparedness and composting. She's trying to fill three consecutive hour long slots on Friday mornings. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Connie at Johnson City Seniors' Center, 607 E. Myrtle Avenue, Johnson City, TN 37601.

Phone: 423-434-6224. If no answer: 423-434-6237. FAX: 423-434-6244.

2010 DATES TO WATCH

March 4	Green and Growing Seminar - Growing Vegetables in East TN
March 6	Arbor Day Tree Planting, Unicoi Co.
March 6	Mize Garden Center, Gray "Attracting Birds to Your Garden"
March 6	"Extend Your Growing Season" Ben Hunter at Sycamore Shoals
March 11	Green and Growing Seminar - Urban Composting
March 13	Rose Seminar, UT Knoxville Ag Campus www.tennesseerosesociety.org
March 13	Mize Garden Center, Johnson City, "Herbs" and "Rain Gardens"
March 16-17	2010 Northeast TN Environmental Conference - Kingsport www.tn.environment.com
March 18	Green and Growing Seminar- Green and Frugal Gardening
March 20	Mize Garden Center, Gray, "Fruit Trees" and "Seed Germination"
March 24	Strategies for Quality Growth Workshop, Kingsport Renaissance Center - efupchurch@tva.gov .
March 25	UT Extension Grafting Workshop, Blountville
March 26	Mize Garden Center, Johnson City "Canning and Preserving your Harvest"
Mar 26-27	"Spring Fling" sponsored by Memphis Area Master Gardeners
April 3	Mize Garden Center, Gray, "Supporting Your Vegetable Garden"
April 5	NETMGA General Meeting, Gray Community Center "Landscaping Tips"
April 10	Erica Glasener at Renaissance Center in Kingsport
April 10	Mize Garden Center, Gray "Canning and Preserving Your Harvest"
April 16-18	Spring Nature Festival at Warrior's Path State Park, Johnson City
April 17	Sevier Co. Flower and Garden Show and Sale
April 24	East TN Nursery Association Plant Auction Sycamore Shoals
April 24	Boundless Playground Workday, Warrior's Path State Park
April 24-25	Spring Garden Fair, Exchange Place, Kingsport
May 11-13	Chattanooga, Southeast Exotic Plant Pest Council and the SE Society for Ecological Restoration International - www.tn.environment.com
May 11	Johnson City - TDEC - Millennium Place - Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control - Level 1
May 29	Jonesborough Garden Gala
June 7	NETMGA Meeting Joy Stewart will host a program on Water Wise Landscaping.



News from NETMGA

Valuing Volunteer Hours

Ever wonder if you're making a difference in the world? Well as a Master Gardener you can know that your volunteer hours are making a wonderful contribution to the world! The 2009 year was a wonderful year for the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Program. This year, volunteers submitted 10,397 volunteer hours and 1,900 continuing education hours. This is a value and an impact of \$245,940.00 to the Northeast Tennessee area. So give yourself a pat on the back and keep up the great work. We can make a difference!

Recognizing Hard Workers

We recognize the following Master Gardeners obtaining 100 or greater ACT hours in 2009: J.P. Barrett, Johnda Burdette, Susan Cadwallader, Ray Chandler, Jeanne Cope, Jerry Cunningham, Don Davis, David Doan II, Karen Drought, Sara Elsea, Nina Hedrick, Doug Hilton, Ben Hunter, Tom Lane, Jerry Long, Joy Moore, Johnny Suthers, Barbara Voigt, Mary Grace Walrath, Stanley Wiedenhaupt, and Jim Wilson.

We also congratulate Sally Richard for achieving Master Gardener VIP status.

Using E-Mail Clearinghouse

The Board recently implemented the new clearinghouse email account, netmga2009@yahoo.com. The number of emails received and the issues resolved are telling us that we're on track to make this tool a permanent part of the NETMGA communication network. If you have a question that pops into your head and you've forgotten to ask at a meeting, just email us! One of the board members will answer as soon as possible. It is checked daily and we hope we're creating a valuable service to all our members. If you're not receiving notices from this email account, please check your SPAM box. As we send the emails to such a large group some email services considered this spam. This has been the only problem we've encountered and we need your help to make the email account as great as it can be.

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LEARN LANDSCAPING TIPS AT NETMGA'S APRIL 5 MEETING

The next NETMGA meeting will be on Monday, April 5 at the Gray Community Center. Food and fellowship will begin at 6:00. The meeting will begin at 6:30. Betty Freeman, a local landscape designer, will present a program on Landscaping Tips.

Please bring a finger food to share. Guests are welcome.

Earn CEU's

