

Official Publication



# Master Gardener Thymes

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

MAY / JUNE 2009

Learn All About

## HOSTAS

at the June

### Master Gardener Meeting

Nina Hedrick, Master Gardener, will discuss *HOSTAS and THEIR SHADY COMPANIONS* on June 1, 2009. The program will take place at the Nina and Bob Hedrick home, where guests will have a first hand look at their lovely sun and shade gardens. There may be a few plants to share, so members are asked to dress comfortably, and bring a trowel and a plastic grocery bag!

Master Gardeners are also to bring a finger food to share. The gathering will begin at 6:00 for refreshments and fellowship. The meeting will start at 6:30.

Nina and Bob's home is located at 316 Claymore, Colonial Heights. In the event of rain the meeting will be moved to the Gray Community Center.



Photo courtesy of New Hampshire Hostas  
[www.nhhostas.com](http://www.nhhostas.com)

Please plan to carpool as parking is limited. Directions to **Nina's garden**: From **Route 36** (Fort Henry Drive) in Colonial Heights turn onto **Lebanon Road**. (Look for the red Bridgestone Firestone sign. Lebanon goes one direction; Colonial Heights Road goes the other direction.) Go about ½ mile and turn right onto **Meadow Lane**. (Colonial Heights Christian Church is on the corner.) Proceed on Meadow Lane for a little over ½ mile. Turn left on **Claymore**. **Nina's address is 316 Claymore** (on right-hand side).

## Sign Up Now to Plan Master Gardener Classes for Fall 2009

Are you interested in helping plan classes for the fall 2009 Master Gardener Program? A committee is being formed now to design, promote, and implement the 2009 Master Gardener Training Program. The committee will meet two or three times during the daytime starting in Mid-May.

If you are interested in participating on this committee or have any questions, please contact Nina Hedrick at [hedrick@chartertn.net](mailto:hedrick@chartertn.net) or 239-9604. Information about the first meeting will be released in early May.

## PICK AN ALL-AMERICA FLOWER FOR YOUR GARDEN

Want to be among the first to plant these newly named All-America flowers in your garden? The winners are.....



'Mesa Yellow' gaillardia. This is a F1 hybrid bred by PanAmerican Seed. It has a branching, mounding habit reaching 18-20 inches tall. This 1st year flowering perennial is drought-tolerant and produces 3-inch bright yellow flowers. It is hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 5.



'Twinny Peach.' This is a snapdragon bred by Hem Genetics. This dwarf plant reaches 12-14 inches tall and spreads 7-8 inches. The butterfly-form flowers come in a blend of pastel colors including peach, yellow and light orange.



'Zahara Starlight Rose' is bred by Pan American Seed. This plant produces 2-inch rose and white bicolor flowers. The plants are resistant to leaf spot and mildew. They reach 12-14 inches tall, will tolerate hot and dry, or wet summer growing conditions.

## 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual Jonesborough Garden Tour Coming Soon

On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> Jonesborough will once again be buzzing with visitors for the 13<sup>TH</sup> Annual Jonesborough Garden Tour. Join us for this walking tour of some of historic Jonesborough's public and private gardens.

The Garden Marketplace, adjacent to the Visitors Center, will open at 9:00 a.m. with an all-day plant and garden accessory sale open to the public. Morning activities include three seminars beginning at 9:15 in the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center as well as an orchid exhibit provided by the Orchid Society of East Tennessee. At 12:30 p.m. private gardens will open to the public with an outdoor tea being served from 1:30- 4:00 pm.

As always, volunteers and Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners Association are welcomed as hosts and hostesses in all 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](mailto:myjoy-bird@hotmail.com).



### Chris' Corner

**CHRIS RAMSEY**  
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT  
(423) 279-2723  
chris.ramsey@utk.edu

Finally, we have had some warm weather after a cooler than normal spring. We have more MG projects than ever for you to pick from. I want to encourage you to get involved in more than one project. This will help spread the effort around and allow you to get to know other MGs. As you work with your projects, make sure you continue to document your hours. We would also encourage you to turn in your hours as you accumulate them through the year. The kitchen calendar makes a

great record! A list of the volunteer service and CEU opportunities is available online at [sullivan.tennessee.edu](http://sullivan.tennessee.edu).

NETMGA is offering an incentive for MGs to turn in hours early. When you bring your hours report to the meeting, you will be entered for a special door prize. So bring in those reports.

Effective this year, we will move the MG Hours Deadline to October 31. Hopefully, this will allow you to get most of the Fall gardening hours on the report. Hours that you get in 2009 after this deadline can still be entered and will count at the state level.

Also, remember to publicize the 2009 Fall Master Gardener Program to your family, friends, and neighbors. The program will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the day beginning in September.

## PLANT SWAP SCHEDULED AT MIZE

Do you have more plants than you want? Do you need more plants without spending a lot of money? Then plan on attending the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Johnson City Plant Swap. The swap will be held the first Saturday of each month at Mize Farm and Garden on 929 West Watauga Ave in Johnson City. (Dates are (APR 4, MAY 2, JUNE 6, JULY 11, AUG 1, SEPT 5, OCT 3, NOV 7, 2009). Arrive at 11:00 and plan on trading plants, seeds, and bulbs.

## Butterfly Arboretum Seeking Workers

Frances Lamberts of Jonesborough began a garden that has become the Butterfly Arboretum about three years ago. Doing most of the work herself, she designed and planted the area around the waste-water plant. The large garden has become one of special beauty with more perennials and trees being planted each year. With additional trees being added in 2009, Frances needs help from dedicated workers to assist in deadheading, watering, planting and maintaining the garden to make it even more beautiful than it is now. Please call Frances at 753-5288, or email [frances@ecoisp.com](mailto:frances@ecoisp.com) to offer your assistance. This is a true Master Gardener effort.



## Spare Species Are Available

We would like to energize the Spare Species List and expand our participation. So don't forget that this is a great place to both get rid of unwanted plants AND see if anyone has a plant that you are looking for! Most gardeners can't bear the thought of throwing out a plant, even if it is something unwanted; this is the perfect place to get rid of it and if you are looking for something, this is the place to post it.

Contact Joy at [joylarry@btes.tv](mailto:joylarry@btes.tv) or call her at 423 573-2376 to list any plants.

### Desired Plants

1. Any of the coreopsis species. Springfield Acres Neighborhood in Bristol is looking for this plant or other drought tolerant plants to put under their neighborhood sign.
2. Any spare campanulas.

### Plants to Give Away

1. Lamb's Ears (Stachys) - 2 well established plants available, can be divided
2. Rue (Ruta) - 3 younger but established plants
3. Wild bergamont (Monarda fistulosa) - lots of new babies from seed



Lamb's Ears

## GARDEN SEMINAR COMING TO KINGSPORT

Keep Kingsport Beautiful will present Garden Views, a regional gardening seminar, on Saturday June 20, 2009 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, at the Renaissance Center Theater, 1200 East Center Street, Kingsport, TN.

An exciting lineup of speakers and timely topics will be featured at the seminar. Kim Whiston, East TN Garden Coach and former president of the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association, will deliver the keynote talk on ***Combining Accent Ornamentals & Edibles (Edible Landscapes)***. Next Robin Yeary from UT Gardens will describe ***New Accent Trees and Shrub Cultivars to Jazz up Existing Landscape***. To conclude the program, Beth Willis, UT Gardens Trials Coordinator, will highlight the ***Top Annuals and Perennials in the UT Gardens***.

Tickets are \$10 for individuals and \$8 for groups of 8 or more for this event filled with great speakers, door prizes and information to help you garden smarter. Light refreshments and handouts are included. Tickets are available at Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce, 151 East Main Street or at the door.

Garden Views is sponsored by Plantboy Landscape Management and Garden Center. Proceeds from the seminar benefit Keep Kingsport Beautiful's beautification and education programs. For more information call Keep Kingsport Beautiful at 423-392-8814 or e-mail [clean@kingsportchamber.org](mailto:clean@kingsportchamber.org).

## Roan Mountain Schedules 51st Annual Spring Nature Rally

Take a brief ride to Roan Mountain On May 1 – 3 for the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Rally. Join area naturalists May 1 – 3 on Roan Mountain for a weekend of hikes, workshops, exploration and fun. Programs will include bird walks, forest ecology, wildflowers, salamanders, butterflies, aquatic insects, geology, and more. Reservations are required. *For more information call: (423) 477-2235.*

## Celebrate May at the NC Arboretum

Listed below are several of the gardening events scheduled for May at the Arboretum in Asheville, NC



### Sat. May 2 and Sun. May 3

American Rhododendron Society Annual Show  
12:00 Noon to 5 at the Education Center

### Sat. May 9 and Tues. May 12

Dahlia Tuber Sale and Chrysanthemum Plant Sale  
10:00 – 4:00 Sat Education Center  
10:00 – 4:00 Sun Baker Exhibition Center

Dahlia Tubers and Chrysanthemum Cuttings – While Supplies Last!

### Sat. May 30 and Sun. May 31

Asheville Blue Ridge Rose Society Annual Rose Exhibit  
Programs by experts – Plants for sale  
Sat 10:00 – 5:00 Education center  
Sun 12:00 to 5:00 Education Center



And, while your calendar is in front of you, here's one event for June:

### Sat. June 27

Western NC Annual Day Lilly Show  
Daylilies for show and for sale 11:00 – 5:00 Education Center

## EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES!

Plan a day trip to Knoxville in May to enjoy one or more rose-related events:  
**UT Rose Sale May 8 - 9, 2009**

There will be a UT Rose Sale on Friday, May 8th, from Noon- 6:00 and Saturday, May 9th, from 8:00-6:00. There will be over a hundred cultivars of roses for sale including UT's no-spray roses, the best of Bailey Nursery's Easy Elegance Series, and the 2009 introductions for Jackson and Perkins, Weeks, and Star Roses. The sale will be at the entrance of the UT Gardens on Neyland Drive next to the UT Veterinary Hospital.

### Dogwood Arts Festival Open Rose Gardens, May 9 -10, 2009

The Dogwood Arts Festival Open Rose Gardens gives the public a wonderful opportunity to see and enjoy the best roses grown in East Tennessee. The Dogwood Arts Open Rose Gardens include several gardens of members of the Tennessee Rose Society and will be open from 12:00 to 5:00 daily on May 9-10th and May 16-17th. These gardens feature both formal design as well as cottage design. A special treat for Mother's Day, this garden tour is not one to be missed. There is no admission to view the gardens. For more information, visit <http://www.tennesseerosesociety.org>.

### East Tennessee Festival of Roses, Saturday, May 23, 2009

A rose show finishes up this exciting month of roses. The East Tennessee Festival of Roses is returning again to Knoxville. The outstanding exhibition of roses will be held in the Plant Bio-Tech Building on the University of Tennessee Campus on Saturday, May 23rd, with the public viewing beginning at noon. This will give the public an opportunity to see and enjoy many new varieties including those that are considered "easy care roses." The rose show will also be an opportunity for the public to seek out area rose growers and get answers to their rose growing questions. The viewing hours for the public will be 12:00 to 5:00 on Sat., May 23. There is no charge to attend this event jointly sponsored by the Tennessee Rose Society and the Holston Rose Society, both of which encourage everyone to grow roses.

### BLOOMSDAYS 2009

**Garden Festival and Marketplace  
 The University of Tennessee Gardens  
 Saturday, June 27 - Sunday, June 28, 2009**

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## ENJOY STEELE'S CREEK PARK EVENTS IN BRISTOL

Steele's Creek Park in Bristol has scheduled some interesting events for the month of May. Plan on participating and enjoying this beautiful city park.

On Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm you can **Explore Nature at Whitetop Creek Park:** Meet Larry at Whitetop Creek Park (located just off Hwy 394 near the drag strip) for an exciting exploration of one of Bristol, Tennessee's other large parks!

On Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm search for **Wildflowers and Mushrooms with Special Guest!** Meet guest Gabrielle Zeiger at the Nature Center for a special data-collecting foray into the woods and hollows searching for some of the Park's most elusive residents! This will be a moderate hike.

## Johnson City Plans Garden Tour

The Shady Oaks Garden Club, Johnson City, is sponsoring the biennial Garden Tour and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9, between the hours of 1:00 - 5:00pm. The gardens are in the Strawberry Fields, Sterling Springs and Mizpah Hills subdivisions.

**Contact:** Leslie Snyder Keep Kingsport Beautiful (423) 392-8814

## Teacher Workshop Planned

Each year, UT Extension partners with the Tennessee Forestry Association to host the Teacher's Conservation Workshop. This a week-long continuing education course held at Pickwick Landing State Park and also in Knoxville. There is no cost for attending, and participants can earn university credit (undergraduate and graduate).



Simply put, we have a grand time. Just find any of the agents in the region who have attended in the past and allow them brag about the program. The goal is to introduce educators to natural resource issues in the forest, the creek, the soil, at sawmills, private lands and more. Agents are welcome to attend, as are public and private school teachers (regardless of the age of students they teach, or their discipline). For more information, or to register, see Dr. Wayne Clatterbuck or me (David Mercker) and we can forward a brochure. In addition information should become available soon at the TFA web site:

<http://www.tnforestry.com/>

This year's dates are: June 21 - 26 - Knoxville and July 12 - 17 - Pickwick State Park.

For more information contact: David Mercker, PhD., CF®. Extension Forester, University of Tennessee, 605 Airways Blvd., Jackson TN 38301 731-425-4703 [dcmercker@utk.edu](mailto:dcmercker@utk.edu)

## WATCH OUT FOR BASIL DOWNY MILDEW



If you grow basil, be on the lookout for a new disease this year, basil downy mildew. It is easy to overlook, yet destructive because of the low tolerance level for leaf imperfections in basil at the marketplace. Basil downy mildew moved from Europe to south Florida in October, 2007, followed by reports from NC, PA, NJ, NY, MA, MO, and KS in 2008 and CA in 2009. It likely has occurred elsewhere, but has not been reported because of the subtlety of the symptoms. The disease is transmitted through infected seeds, aerial spread of spores, and marketplace movement of infected leaves. The article by Dr. M.T. McGrath, will help you identify the disease: <http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/BasilDowny.html> .



Photo courtesy of [www.handelbarhostas.ca](http://www.handelbarhostas.ca)

## Enjoy Growing Beebalm

By Joy Moore and Hugh Conlon

Beebalm (*Monarda spp.*) is one of our great native perennials and herbs. Native Americans used beebalm as a tea, brewing it for colds, minor bronchial and digestive complaints, and also as a poultice to soothe insect stings. During the Boston Tea Party, rebellious colonists utilized beebalm as a tea substitute, calling it "Oswego tea". Some gardeners may tuck beebalm leaves under their hats to ward off mosquitoes and flies.

Monarda is a member of the mint family, and leaves are aromatic and minty. The flowers are edible and can be added to salads. Beebalm prefers a moist, richly organic, well-drained soil in full sun to light shade. Plants need good air circulation. Beebalm tolerates summer heat but not prolonged droughts.

Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to its colorful, nectar laden flowers. The colorful tubular flowers open from mid-June to late July, but plants will rebloom when deadheaded. Flower colors range from the popular bright red to white, pink, lavender and purple. Beebalm is a great multiplier, and often the flower bed becomes very crowded in two to three years, requiring division of plant clumps.

Beebalm has few pests - except powdery mildew, a serious foliage disease problem. As summer humidity and heat kicks in, soil moisture declines and air circulation becomes stifling, a white coating of mildew begins to coat over foliage of susceptible cultivars. Weekly spraying with garden fungicides from late June to frost is not a viable option. Organically, you can reduce mildew severity by stripping away the lower 1/3 leaves and thinning out seedling populations to increase air circulation around plants. Diseased stalks should be discarded and not put in the compost pile.

A better approach to defend against mildew is to plant disease resistant varieties. 'Jacob Cline' displays very large red flowers and 'Marshall's Delight' is a pink blooming beebalm. Both grow 3-4 feet in height. Before his retirement, Richard E. Bir, featured SAPS speaker for April, conducted a multi-year evaluation of monarda. In addition to 'Jacob Cline' and 'Marshall's Delight', Dick also recommended *Monarda fistulosa* 'Clare Grace'. Late in the season, 'Clare Grace' befell to mildew, but the plant's rapid growth rate and above-average drought tolerance made it worthy of mention.





Northeast Tennessee  
Master Gardener Association  
c/o  
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<http://netmga.net>

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

### DATES TO WATCH

- May 1 – 3            Roan Mountain Spring Nature Rally
- May 2                Johnson City Mize – Plant Swap
- May 2 – 3            NC Arboretum – Rhododendron Show
- May 8 – 9            Knoxville - UT Gardens Rose Show and Sale
- May 9                Johnson City Garden Tour and Plant Sale
- May 9 – 10           Knoxville – Open Rose Gardens
- May 9 and 12        NC Arboretum - Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Show/Sale
- May 17               Bristol Whitetop Creek Park – Explore Nature Hike
- May 23               Jonesborough Garden Tour  
                             Knoxville – Festival of Roses
- May 24               Bristol Steel’s Creek Park – Searching For Mushroom sand Wildflowers
- May 30 – 31        NC Arboretum – Rose Society Show and Sale
- June 1                Master Gardener Meeting “Hostas and their Shady Companions”
- June 6                Johnson City Mize – Plant Swap
- June 20               Garden Views, Kingsport
- June 21 – 26        Knoxville – Teacher Workshop
- June 27               NC Arboretum – Day Lilly Show and Sale
- June 27 – 28        Knoxville – Bloom Days at UT Gardens