

## ***MASTER GARDENERS SECURE GRANT FOR FAIRGROUNDS***

Two of our active Master Gardeners have been at it again! **Lisa Bradley**, our secretary and **Sandee Cook**, owner of Cooks Greenhouses in Greenville along with **Laura Fitzgerald** (not a Master Gardener, but a fellow garden lover) have been instrumental in securing a USDA Grant for \$5,000 for the Appalachian Fairgrounds! The grant was issued to promote Tennessee products and will be used at the fairgrounds to implement a Farmers Market and to promote the use of the herb garden as a teaching tool.

It all started when Shirlene Booker (with the Sullivan County Extension Office) contacted Richard Shadden, the Appalachian Fairground Supervisor and told him about the possibility of obtaining a grant. He turned to Doug Hilton and the Master Gardeners for help. Lisa, Sandee, and Laura jumped right in! Sandee supplied the pertinent information concerning the herb garden and Laura was able to contribute the information required for the Farmers Market. Lisa compiled the data, completed the necessary forms and submitted them for consideration. The grant was approved and the Appalachian Fairgrounds are \$5,000 richer! Way to go ladies! Our hats are off to you for doing such a wonderful job and everyone will be able to enjoy the benefits of your hard work and dedication.

## **BONSAI..... THE MILLENNIA-OLD ART FORM STILL GOING STRONG TODAY !**



Join us Tuesday, May 23 as Mike May & friends present their program on bonsai at our 6:30 meeting at the Gray Community Center. In Japanese, bonsai can be literally translated as 'tray planting.' It is the art of dwarfing trees or plants and developing them into an aesthetically appealing shape by growing, pruning and training them in containers according to prescribed techniques. Although famous theologians have claimed that bonsai is actually 90% art to a meager 10% horticulture, it has to be said that a successful bonsai is most definitely a horticultural masterpiece. Once arriving in the Western

World, this enjoyable and rewarding pastime has never turned back and has gained a magnificently diverse range of plant material and techniques.

So mark your calendars to attend this May program on bonsai – a unique and beautiful horticultural art form. (Info from [BonsaiSite.com](http://BonsaiSite.com))

Directions: From either Kingsport or Johnson City on I-26 take the Gray exit (number 42, also Hwy 75). Turn right at end of exit ramp and go to the town stoplight and turn left on Old Gray Station Rd. After several hundred yards, turn left on Gray Station Rd (Sittin Bull Restaurant on your left) and proceed approximately 1/4 mile and turn right on Gray Ruritan Road. The Gray Community Center is second building on left beside Fire Hall.

## *Fri. & Sat., June 16-17: Wayside Gardens / Parks Seed*

NETMGA members are reminded of the *Second Annual Parks Seed/Wayside Gardens* visit scheduled for June 16 and 17 (reference March Newsletter for details). Be sure to make your hotel reservations. The Comfort Inn will serve as NETGMA headquarters, but guests will have to surrender discount price after MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>! Please call Brenda Floyd at 864-223-2828 before May 17<sup>th</sup> for the special rate price! After you make your reservations, contact Doug Hilton at 239-9433 so he can add names to the car pool list! Members will be notified of departure times and locations the first week of June.

## *Tuesday, May 16: Small Growers Nursery Visit*

NETMGA members are off on another road trip on Tuesday, May 16. The first stop is member Sandee Cook Cook's Greenhouses to purchase some tomatoes, herbs, peppers and other bedding plants. Then continuing on those beautiful scenic country roads, the group will travel to Ann's Greenhaus in Greeneville. Gardeners may shop 'till they drop 'cause Ann has everything from perennials and annuals to a gift shop, heirloom roses, tropicals, water plants, trees and shrubs. Those so inclined will have lunch at a nearby favorite lunch spot.

The schedule is flexible at this point. Folks may either return home or continue on. The group will wander through the Jonesborough countryside for a visit to either Onks Greenhouse, Banner's Day-lillies or Littleton's Greenhouses!!! Don't miss out on all the plants, fun and food!

To sign up call or mail Connie Dean at 423-357-4219 or [lcdean@chartertn.net](mailto:lcdean@chartertn.net). (This is not required but is helpful to the small growers and other participants in order to make plans.)

**ROAD TRIPS !!**



## **Step Into Spring In Style**

Spring has arrived and now is the perfect time for all NETMGA members to display the official Master Gardener logo! Check out the website at [mastergardeners.tennessee.edu](http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu) (Master Gardener Store) to view the T-shirts, coffee mugs, hats, and visors. Order merchandise on-line or contact Lois Bronson at [honeybee@copper.net](mailto:honeybee@copper.net).

AND for the fashion conscious Master Gardener an "absolute must have" is the official NETMGA golf shirt. This shirt has been especially designed just for NETMGA members and would definitely make a statement at the Chattanooga Conference and other special events! The shirts are gray and the NETMGA logo is printed in green. They are available in S, M, and L at \$18.00 with the XL and XXL priced at \$20.00. (*These are men's sizes, so keep that in mind when ordering, ladies*). This item is not available to order on-line. Please contact Lois Bronson at [honeybee@copper.net](mailto:honeybee@copper.net) or 423-239-4285 for ordering information. The orders will need to be filled in increments of six (6) to get the special price rate, so **CALL AND ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2006

- May 12 -13 Garden Fest 8:00 – 4:00 Appalachian Fairgrounds at Gray
- May 13 Household Hazardous Waste Collection 9:00 to 2:00
- May 16 Small Growers Greenhouses “Road Trip” Contact: Connie Dean at 423-357-4219 or [lcdean@chartertn.net](mailto:lcdean@chartertn.net).
- May 20 Saturdays in the Garden – Kingsport  
10:00 to 2:00, Mike May’s and John Dodson’s Gardens. Contact Keep Kingsport Beautiful (KKB) at (423) 392-8814 at [pcox@kingsportchamber.org](mailto:pcox@kingsportchamber.org).
- May 23 Bonsai Program by Mike May & Friends, 6:30 at Gray Community Center.
- May 27 Jonesborough Garden Gala  
Gardens open at 12:30; Vendors at 9:00, Contact Tobie Bledsoe, 753-8223, or Jennifer Hann, 913-2781 or the Historic Visitors Center, 753-1010.
- June 8-11 Southern Regional Master Gardener Conference, Chattanooga
- June 16-17 Wayside Gardens and Parks Seed Trip, Contact Doug Hilton at 239-9433
- June 24 Saturdays in the Garden  
Dennis and Erika Marshall’s and Nina and Bob Hendrick’s gardens
- July 8 Saturdays in the Garden  
Nikki and David Shrivell’s and Tim and Linda Martin’s gardens
- July 15 NETMGA Program – “Urban Edibles,” 10:00 a.m. Dr. Richard Moyer - Bristol
- August 12 Saturdays in the Garden—Marc and Nash Cornett’s and John Faust’s gardens

### **ACE HOURS – YOURS TO EARN at Garden Fest at Appalachian Fairgrounds**

The Master Gardening Program will have an information booth at Garden Fest at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray on May 12 & 13. Volunteers are needed for both days for shifts: 8AM to 11AM, 11AM to 2 PM, and 2 PM to 5 PM. Please contact Doug Hilton at 239-9433 if you are interested in helping out! A great way to earn some ACE hours!

### ***Hazardous Waste Collections Planned***

Two sites have been selected for the spring household hazardous waste collection in East Tennessee on May 13, 2006. Tennessee residents may bring items to either site between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. The first site, in Washington county, is Science Hill High School. The collection area is located at the Vocational School Parking Lot on Liberty Bell Boulevard.

Contact Charles Baines 753-1652 or Heather Clever 461-8000. The second site is in Johnson County at the Johnson County Transfer Station. The station is located On Highway 67 in Mountain City. Contact Clifton Dunn at 727-7929 for more information.

## Keep Kingsport Beautiful Presents "Saturdays in the Gardens"

**Keep Kingsport Beautiful** (KKB) will present a new fundraiser--"Saturdays in the Gardens," beginning May 20. The fundraiser will present the gardens of eight local gardeners on four weekends in May, June, July and August. Featured gardens include: Mike May and John Dodson, May 20; Dennis and Earika Marshall and Nina and Bob Hedrick, June 24; Nikki and David Shivell and Tim and Linda Martin, July 8; and Marc and Nash Cornett and John Faust, August 12.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for local residents to view some of Kingsport's premier gardens. This is the first time these gardens have been open to the public," said **Joy Moore**, chair, KKB Beautification Committee. "Not only will visitors see some gorgeous gardens, but all the money from 'Saturdays in the Gardens' benefits Keep Kingsport Beautiful."

According to Moore, the gardens were chosen for their unique appeal and styles. The Dodson garden is actually three small gardens in one and features an herb, a vegetable and a parterre garden. The parterre garden contains evergreens and perennials along with ornamental trees, statuary and bird houses.

On the same Saturday, visitors to the May garden will be treated to an eclectic array of plant material including many natives and unusual varieties on the grounds of what was originally part of the Mt. Ida plantation. Mike's evolving bonsai collection will also be on display.

The June tour features the gardens of Nina Hedrick and Dennis Marshall. For many years, Hedrick's Colonial Heights garden consisted of a large lawn, tennis court and play area for children and grandchildren. Today, the garden is filled with trees, shrubs and perennial beds in both sun and shade, as well as a small tranquil pond with cascading waterfalls surrounded by sitting areas.

The Marshall garden in Bloomingdale is located on an acre of land and is surrounded by a split rail fence with several purple leaf maples accenting the fence. Lining the fence and in the lawn are a variety of gardens with many shrubs and perennials. Marshall's special interests include daylilies and berries that he uses for wine making.

Located in Fairacres, the garden of Tim and Linda Martin is situated on the original nursery of John B. Dennis and features raspberries, blueberries, birdhouses and birdbaths and even an electric train. Highlights of the garden include Knock Out roses, large urns around the swimming pool, hydrangeas, crape myrtles, a 15-foot hemlock privacy hedge and a not-so-common 60-foot deciduous Pond Cypress.

Also in Fairacres the home of Nikki and David Shivell, 1745 Orchard Place, was once - as the name implies - an orchard. Three of the original fruit trees still grace the property today. The Shivells utilize containers to add color and focus to deck and porch areas. A long perennial border contains plantings for both sun and shade, including many annuals, and incorporates a fountain and several other structures. An herb garden provides fresh ingredients to enhance favorite dishes.

Marc and Nash Cornett started their garden in Ridgefields in 1988 with a 1400-square-foot house and huge backyard with two dead trees and a snowball bush. Since that time, they have transformed the area to into a "yarden" with a home addition, new back porch and a profusion of color with azaleas and rhododendrons in the spring and green throughout the growing season.

When entering the garden of John Faust, visitors are first greeted by a row of beautiful roses across the front with an herb garden on the side with lavender, thyme and rosemary. The front of the house is bathed in all day sun, which enables roses and herbs to thrive. Throughout the garden is a collection of decorative pots and urns filled with unique plantings such as two corkscrew spiral evergreen topiaries that add interest through all seasons.

"Keep Kingsport Beautiful is pleased to be able to offer these gardens for public viewing," Moore said. "The gardens will inspire both experienced and novice gardeners."

Tickets for "Saturdays in the Gardens" are \$10 for each Saturday or \$35 for the entire package. Tickets will be available after May 1 at the Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce, 151 E. Main St., and at the *Kingsport Times-News Kiosk* on the upper level of the Ft. Henry Mall. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

The tours will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on each Saturday. Visitors to the gardens may tour at their own pace. Light refreshments will be served. Comfortable shoes are recommended for the garden tours.

For more information, contact Keep Kingsport Beautiful at (423) 392-8814 or KKB at [pcox@kingsportchamber.org](mailto:pcox@kingsportchamber.org).

### Message from Our President....

Hello everyone! I think we have had a beautiful Spring! In our family drives to Nashville along redbud alley, the signs of new growth are everywhere. Our gardens and landscapes are really starting to 'do their thing', and if you are like me, there is not enough time in the day to do all the outdoor work that awaits us! Housework is way down on my list of priorities at a time like this.

NETMGA has many opportunities for our members to use their time and talents and the gardening events, both local and regional, abound. Please read your newsletter closely...mark your calendars, and join with fellow MGs as we travel to Chattanooga and Greenwood, visit our local small nurseries and work on all sorts of on-going or new projects. There really is no reason for anyone to have a problem getting hours. If you have questions about any project, programs or you are concerned about accruing hours, please contact your officers or committee chairs...we will do our best to answer your questions, or refer you to someone who can!

Thanks to all who work so hard to make our organization successful.

Ellen

PS - just a reminder - the next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, at the fairgrounds location.

*Club Members Reminders Just for fun, check out these reminders from 1926*

#### TEN WAYS TO MAKE A CLUB FLOURISH

1. Go to meetings and be punctual
2. Cooperate with officers and members
3. Accept advice if offered
4. Express your opinion in the meetings instead of criticizing actions afterwards
5. Do not be afraid of work
6. Pay dues promptly
7. Get new members by telling the best people you know that they should be connected with the best club you know
8. Do not be afraid of an honest difference of opinion
9. Seek out new and interesting pieces of work for your club to undertake
10. Be loyal to the ideals and standards of your club

*By the Civic Club of Philadelphia - 1926*

## 2006 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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#### 2006 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

<b><u>MEMBERSHIP</u></b>	Sabrina Bader	(423) 477-8937	paulsebrina@earthlink.net
<b><u>PROJECT</u></b>	Dennis Marshall	(423) 288-3675	marshalls3@earthlink.net
<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>	Connie Dean	(423) 357-4219	lcdean@chartertn.net
<b><u>REFRESHMENT</u></b>	Jan Jones	(423) 349-6119	simpleintn@yahoo.com
<b><u>PUBLICITY</u></b>	To be announced		



## Jonesborough Garden Gala

### Orchid show, Gala set for May 27

The lovely gardens will be open and the vendors ready to sell beautiful garden items when the Jonesborough Garden Gala revisits historic Jonesborough on May 27th. The event is sponsored by the Tuesday and Schubert Garden Clubs of Jonesborough and the Southern Appalachian Plant Society.

All events begin at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center. Garden related vendors open at 9:00am, followed by garden seminars at 10:00am. An Orchid Show and seminar will be provided by the Orchid Society of East Tennessee. The gardens will open at 12:30; last year 16 beautiful gardens were open. An elegant tea, plant clinic and use of a trolley round out the planned activities.

Advance tickets for the tour, tea, trolley and Orchid Show are \$12 at the Visitors Center or from any member of the Tuesday and Schubert Garden Clubs; tickets at the door on Saturday will be \$15. Tickets for all 6 planned seminars will be \$5. Attendance at each seminar qualifies for 1 CEU. For additional information, contact Club Presidents Tobie Bledsoe, 753-8223, or Jennifer Hann, 913-2781 or the Historic Visitors Center, 753-1010.

### Cocoa Mulch Bulletin

Some information is "making the rounds" that Cocoa Mulch, sold at Target stores, has been fatal to dogs. Anyone interested in facts about cocoa mulch may want to access the following web site: <http://www.snopes.com/>

### PART-TIME WORK AVAILABLE

Evergreen Garden Center in Kingsport needs several part time Master Gardeners to sell greenhouse and nursery products in the spring and early summer. Contact Deb Moody at (423) 245-4769.

### Volunteers Needed for Gala

Volunteers are needed for the Jonesborough Garden Gala to greet guests or answer questions about plants, assist with registration, introduce seminar speakers and myriad other helpful work.

Master Gardeners who want to be garden guides should contact Anna Choquette at 753-4860 or [archoquette@hotmail.com](mailto:archoquette@hotmail.com). SAPS volunteers and Master Gardeners who would like to help with registration, tickets, etc. should contact Joy Moore at 348-6572 or [jonmoore@ntelos.net](mailto:jonmoore@ntelos.net). Each volunteer receives a complimentary ticket to the tour.

### "URBAN EDIBLES"



Calling all members of NETMGA! The July program will be on "Urban Edibles". Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 15, 10A.M. and plan to carpool to the home of Dr. Richard Moyer, which is located very close to King College. Ask members of our intern class about their visit to this home last October. It was great!

Dr. Moyer teaches biology at King, and is an expert gardener. He and his wife Ginny have their own family of young gardeners, ranging in age from 15 years to 8 months.

Plan to spend a summer morning learning about urban gardening at its best!

## FROM THE EDITORS...

Once again we want to thank all the folks who contributed so many interesting articles for the newsletter. You all really make our job fun! Remember, if you have information of interest to Master Gardeners, send it to Jean at [greenfam2@chartertn.net](mailto:greenfam2@chartertn.net) or to Kathy at [auntkat@charter.net](mailto:auntkat@charter.net). Our deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every other month. (i.e. – 20<sup>th</sup> of April for the May-June edition.)

If you attend the Bonsai workshop and want to learn more about Bonsai, consider a day trip to the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. The arboretum has one of the best Bonsai collections in the country. The entire arboretum is worth seeing and the trip can be easily done in a day from east Tennessee.

Also, if you are a lover of day lilies, plan to go by Good Day Lilly Farm in Bluff City, Tn. during the middle of June. Literally thousands of day lilies are in full bloom then. Some church groups come by to experience the spirituality of nature among the beautiful blossoms.

Lastly, if you have a chance, travel down to Chattanooga for the Regional Conference June 8 – 11. The folks there have worked really hard and are looking forward to welcoming lots of East Tennessee gardeners.

Happy Spring!

## Help Needed for Keep America Beautiful Glorious Gardens

Michelle Morgan in Morristown needs one more master gardener to help as a host/hostess for the Keep America Beautiful Glorious Gardens tour on Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It would be a plus if the person had a knowledge of Japanese gardening but that is not a requirement. Basic job duties include talking to people as they tour the garden, sharing basic gardening knowledge, answering questions and just generally making people feel welcome at that garden while they tour. They will be at that same garden all day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Perks include:

- Free garden tour ticket for the following day - Sunday, June 4 - an entirely different set of gardens included on that day. Hours are 1 to 6 p.m.
- Free garden gala ticket for Friday night - June 2 - 7:00 p.m. - Rose Center includes a meal. Sam Venable with Knoxville News Sentinel is the speaker.
- An invitation to the "Secret Garden Party" with access to all the gardens (both days worth) on the tour hosted by the gardeners themselves.

Please contact Michelle Morgan at [msmorgan1870@yahoo.com](mailto:msmorgan1870@yahoo.com) if interested.

### GIVE



### & GET

**GIVE** - Free organic fertilizer for your garden! I have both mature and immature compost (horse manure and shavings) available. Easy access - you load and haul. Please contact Linda Jones at 423-323-7545 evenings or e-mail [joneslw@voridian.com](mailto:joneslw@voridian.com)

Directions to farm: From I-81 take Exit 63, Tri City Airport Exit and turn toward the airport. Turn left onto the ramp for Shipley Ferry Road. At the end of the ramp, turn left onto Shipley Ferry. Go approximately 0.9 of a mile and turn left at 1699. The driveway is easy to miss...There is an old log cabin at the front of the property. If you pass it, you've missed the driveway.

**GIVE** – Service hours – on-going garden maintenance at Netherland Inn in Kingsport Contact Nancy Scott at 230-0654



Northeast Tennessee  
Master Gardener Association  
c/o  
UT Extension Sullivan County  
3258 Highway 126, Suite 104  
Blountville, TN 37617

[http://  
mastergardeners.tennessee.edu](http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu)

## UT GARDENS NEEDS MG HELPERS

Helpers are needed for the Blooms Days Garden Festival and Marketplace held this year in the UT Gardens. Blooms Days is a two-day fundraising event held in the Gardens annually. This year's event will take place on June 24 and 25, and will offer a variety of activities, including workshops, children's programs, live music, food, and unique Garden items for sale. You can check out a full listing of information about Blooms Days at our website, [bloomsdays.tennessee.edu](http://bloomsdays.tennessee.edu).

Volunteers, especially Master Gardeners, are needed to help put on this event. To sign up for a volunteer shift or if you have any questions, please contact us on the phone at 865-974-8820, or via email at [sconlon@utk.edu](mailto:sconlon@utk.edu) or [apulte@utk.edu](mailto:apulte@utk.edu). Contacts are Susan C. Morgan and Andrew Pulte, 2006 Blooms Days Co-Volunteer Coordinators.