

TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

"Growing a New Tomorrow"

Hosted by Northeast Tennessee Master Garden Association
Kingsport, Tennessee - June 8-10, 2007
Meadowview Convention Center



Keynote Speakers:
Roger Swain and
Erica Glasener

Also: Vendors
Speakers
Workshops
Silent Auctions
Tours
Music



For additional information Contact Doug Hilton appfair@earthlink.net

COUNTDOWN TO THE CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars right now for the Tennessee Master Gardeners' State Conference to be held June 8-10, 2007 at Meadowview Conference Center in Kingsport. The conference is shaping up to be an exciting and educational event with exceptional speakers, vendors, music, food and tours. ALL Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns are asked to help in some capacity. Contact Doug Hilton at 423-239-9433 to offer your services. Thanks!!



ARTIST / GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED



Many details of the conference have been taken care of, but one major need remains – a design for the conference T-shirt. If you have artistic or graphic design experience, please contact Doug Hilton. We want a great design to match our great conference.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS AND TOPICS ANNOUNCED



The speakers and topics for the conference break out sessions have been released.

- Friday's sessions include:
- Edible Landscapes** Dr. Richard Moyer
 - Herbs as Companion Plants** Joy Moore
 - The Search for Old Apples** Tom Brown
 - Heirloom Vegetable Varieties** Dr. Allen Straw
 - The Fungus Among Us** Tom Cox and Brad Jones
 - Native Perennials for the Home Landscape** Christy Shivell
 - Our Wild Tennessee: Creating Habitat for Local Wildlife** Tonya Clifford
 - Landscaping Techniques to Reduce Urban Storm Water Runoff** Dodd Galbreath
 - Great Underused Trees and Shrubs: Some Top Picks from the ETSU Arboretum** Dr. Timothy McDowell
 - Dwarf Conifers: Color, Texture and Form** Michael Balogh
 - Japanese Gardens** Robert McDuffie
 - Designing with and Caring for Ornamental Grasses** Anda Divine
 - Invasive Exotic Plants within TN's Natural Areas** Terri Hogan
 - Renovating Perennial Gardens** Bob Schell
 - The Extension Service's Most Frequently Asked Questions** Chris Ramsey and friends
 - CSI for Plant Problems** Tom Stebbins
 - Weeding Out Those Aches and Pains** Don Campbell
 - Beginning and Newcomer Gardening Classes** Mike Payne
 - Develop a HUG Program in Your Community** David Craig
 - Junior Master Gardener Day Camp** Doris Weakley
- Saturday Sessions Include:
- Light and Shadow in the Garden** Carol Reese
 - Attracting Birds to Your Backyard** Dr. Fred Alsop, III
 - Gardening for the Future** Eric Johnson
 - Lasagna Gardening: No Digging, No Tilling, No Weeding, No Kidding!** Patricia Lanza
 - Bonsai, A Legacy of Beauty** Warren Hill
 - Vertical Accents – A Pictorial Look at Plants with Strong Vertical Accents** Hugh Conlon



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TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

www.tnmgc2007.net



CONFERENCE BUS TOURS SCHEDULED



Several bus tours have been planned as part of the Master Gardener State Conference. They include:

- **The Kingsport Tour** – visiting Exchange Place, Allendale Mansion, and the Adopt-a-Spot Meadow Gardens on the Greenbelt.
- **The Jonesborough Tour**– visiting three gardens and the historic downtown area
- **The Johnson City / Gray Tour** – visiting the Appalachian Fairground gardens and the Johnson City Medical Center healing garden

The bus tours will be held on Saturday morning and afternoon and are included in the conference registration fee.



CONFERENCE FEES LISTED



The fee for the Tennessee State Master Gardener Conference is \$135 if postmarked by March 15, 2007, and \$160 if postmarked after March 15, 2007. There is no partial registration and no on-site registration! Everyone must pre-register using the official form. Included in the fee are continuing education credit sessions (breakout, general, mealtime speakers), bus tours, 5 meals (Friday lunch & dinner, Sat. breakfast & dinner, and Sunday breakfast), and access to the Gardener's Market. Refunds will be honored if requested. Check out the TMG State Conference website for more information: <http://tnmgc2007.net/> (Cut and paste the previous into your web browser.)

Make Time for Winter Gardening



Dr. Allan Armitage, one of the world's foremost horticulturists
Timber Press Inc.

Just in time to beat those winter doldrums is the Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) Winter Education & Exhibits Program to be held in Pigeon Forge, TN. This event is open to ALL Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns. It will be held Monday and Tuesday, February 5-6, 2007 at the Music Road Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, TN. Monday's sessions run from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Tuesday's hours are 8:00 am to 11:30 am.

Dr. Allan Armitage will be the keynote speaker, presenting the talk "The Incredible Changing World of Annuals." Other sessions will cover topics such as proper planting and pruning, controlling fire ants, successful use of groundcovers, and many more. The Master Gardener rate for the conference is \$75. This is a wonderful chance to earn CEUs, which should reflect the number of hours of lecture attended. Eight pesticide recertification points can be earned during the conference, as well as 3 TCNP points

A downloadable copy of the TNLA Winter Education Agenda and Registration is available on <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/TMGopps/index.htm>

For more information visit: www.tnla.com (Events) or contact:

Louree Walker, Executive Director
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.
McMinnville, TN 37111

931-473-3951

931-473-5883 fax

louree@tnla.com

VIP MASTER GARDENERS GATHER 'ROUND

Are you interested in learning more about gardening? Would you enjoy sharing your new knowledge with others? If so, consider attending the Tennessee Master Gardener "Train the Trainers" program on Feb. 21, 2007 at the Wilson County Fairgrounds. This program is open exclusively to VIP Master Gardeners & Extension Agents. It will consist of three concurrent sessions, taught by Extension specialists, on topics ranging from turf, pests and vegetable to fruit crops.

There is no limit on the number of VIP Master Gardeners who may attend. VIP status is awarded at the discretion of the Master Gardener Coordinating agent. Each registered county participating will receive a trainer notebook and CD Rom with the presentations and scripts. (One per county)

Visit <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/TMGopps/index.htm> to download the agenda. Pre-registration is required for a food and material count, contact Patty Riddings (pridings@utk.edu) 865-974-7324 by February 1, 2007 (give her your name, county, phone and email). To view the archives or join/leave TMG list: <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/tmg.html>

A MESSAGE FROM BETH BABBITT

Dear Volunteer,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work this year. I have seen several of the county reports and am very impressed by the numbers of hours and creative projects in 2006. Thank you all for your contributions! Your time and efforts are making huge impacts both in your community and state. People are taking notice of the successes of the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. Continue to check the TMG website for CEU and training opportunities as they come available.

Happy Gardening,
Beth

PICK YOUR FAVORITE CONFERENCE

Several conferences are scheduled this winter and spring, offering many opportunities to learn new skills and earn CEUs. One of the largest is the International Master Gardeners Conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas May 2-5, 2007. One of the main speakers is Dr. David Lipschitz, MD, PhD, Director of the Donald W. Reynolds Center on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and author of Breaking the Rules of Aging. He will discuss the health benefits of gardening on mind, body, and soul. Another well-known speaker is television's P. Allen Smith.

A bus will be going from Knoxville to make it easier for East Tennessee MGs to attend. If you are interested in this event, contact Beth Babbitt at ebabbitt@utk.edu. Rooms are reserved at The Peabody Hotel. The number for reservations is 501-906-4000. Find out more about the conference by visiting this site: <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/news/> or <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/TMGopps/index.htm>

Another exciting conference is the "Aquatic Expo" presented by The North American Water Garden Society. This event will be held March 31 - April 1, 2007 in Jackson, TN. The two-day event will provide opportunities to learn many aspects of pond keeping from several experts. The expo is hosted by Carter's Nursery and Pond and Patio. General Admission is \$15. Members of the Water Garden Society are admitted for \$10.00. For more information, visit <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/TMGopps/index.htm>

NETMGA PROGRAMS CHAIR NEEDED

As we begin the New Year with new officers, we are still seeking a person to fill the position of Programs Chair. If you are interested, please contact Valerya Hyrne at 743-9093.

A Letter from the President....

A View from the Mountain...
 Happy New Year! I hope that all of you have had a great holiday season! It has

been an interesting time for our family - where we live, we have had three neighbors pass away in the past two months, and life on the mountain has become very different for those of us that are still there - much more isolated and quiet than it has been. Winter, like everywhere, has begun, and with a vengeance in our neighborhood! While we have had the temperature and weather fluctuations like everywhere else in our region, we have also had snow, ice, sleet, and 50+ mph howling winds! We are hoping for some milder days so that we can do some renovation work on our vegetable garden, and tidy up the compost pile! As for resolutions, I resolved years ago not to make resolutions!

As we greet the New Year, like on the mountain, our Master Gardener Association is met with change, challenges, and opportunities. We have a new class of MG Interns that are eager to work and earn their MG certification. I encourage this class and their 'buds' to help them earn their required CEUs and volunteer hours not only to earn the MG certification; but to be involved with their projects and continued learning in their communities and our local and state MG programs.

For our certified MGs, thank you for your hard work over that past year! And please, please remember that the September 30, 2007 deadline to turn in our CEU and volunteer hours to retain certification comes so quickly! Let me encourage you, and our MG Interns, to try and get your required hours as soon as possible - which would help Gwyn Duncan, our new MG Certification Officer, to not be so busy when she is trying to wrap up her reports in late September - early October 2007.

Speaking of opportunities, the major event for our MG year is the Tennessee State Master Gardener Conference, June 8-10, 2007 at the Meadowview Marriott, Kingsport. Aside from our keynote speakers, Roger Swain and Erica Glasener, we have so many interesting and informative breakout sessions and demonstrations! And this is such a great opportunity to meet and share with TN MGs!

Besides the CEUs that you can earn at our State MG Conference, there are volunteer hours that can be earned not only at the Conference, but in the planning and work leading up to the Conference. Our Planning Committee is hard at work readying for the Conference. We will need your help from now until the Conference is over June 10th! If you would like help us, please contact Doug Hilton, 239-9433, and he will be glad to point you in the direction where help is needed!

While our State MG Conference is the major focus of our MG Association this year, let's not forget all of the other projects that we have going on in our region. We have so many wonderful MG projects - the Greenbelt in Kingsport, the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray, the Healing Gardens at Johnson City Medical Center, to name a few. There are new MG projects being developed as we speak in all of the counties of our NETMGA - and hopefully there will be a project of interest and close to you.

Looking back to 2006, we had a great year - and a great president who led our NETMGA with grace, skill, and class. I would like to thank Ellen Hilderbrand for leading us in 2006, and encourage all of our MGs to share the same with her. I understand that change is coming to Ellen and her husband Ron with a future move to South Carolina, a new job for Ron, and a return to their roots

If you have any questions about the MG program, please do not hesitate to call Chris, myself, or anyone else who may be able to help you! And don't forget to culture your own gardens and your families too. They are as or more important than anything in life.

Valerya

**2006
 NORTHEAST
 TENNESSEE
 MASTER
 GARDENER
 ASSOCIATION
 OFFICERS**

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2006 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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<u>PROGRAM</u>	to be announced		
<u>HOSPITALITY</u>	Jan Jones	(423) 349-6119	simpleintn@yahoo.com
<u>PUBLICITY</u>	to be announced		
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Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
(423) 279-2723

What a year we have had with the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Program in 2006. This year, 99 volunteers submitted 8591 volunteer hours and 1505 continuing education hours. This is a value and an impact of \$146,047.00 to the Northeast Tennessee area. Because of your diligent reporting of hours, Northeast Tennessee is known statewide as a very active and involved Master Gardener group. My goal for 2007 is 10,000 hours. Just keep reporting your efforts and remember that you don't have to wait until the September 30, 2007 deadline to submit hours. Our certification officer for 2007 is Gwyn Duncan. Paper report forms can be submitted di-

rectly to Gwyn. Call me if you need a report form.

This will be an exciting year for the Master Gardeners of Northeast Tennessee as we host the 2007 State Master Gardener Meeting at the Meadowview Conference Convention Center in Kingsport. This conference will be an awesome opportunity to meet other Master Gardeners from across the state as well as Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. The planning committee has done a fantastic job of planning an event to be remembered for some time. Hopefully, you are planning to attend this conference in June. This will be a great opportunity! Current information about the conference can be found at the following website, <http://tnmgc2007.net/>. For more information on this conference, call Doug Hilton at 239-9433.

Call me if you have any questions about Master Gardener opportunities.

Chris

GIVE A GARDENING GIFT

Looking for a new way to give this year? Consider the TMG Endowment Fund. The TMG Endowment was created to insure the future of the Master Gardener program in Tennessee. With your contributions we hope to cultivate more learning opportunities to nurture better Master Gardener volunteers.

If you are interested in giving a gift or changing your annual UT contribution to benefit the TMG Endowment contact Beth Babbit ebabbit@utk.edu (865)974-7324 or Dennis Jones djones@tennessee.edu (865) 974-7396.

Another way to help the endowment is the shop the Master Gardener Store. A percentage of the purchases on the MG Store benefit the TMG Endowment. Now available: TMG hats, visors, mugs, t-shirts, license plates. Visit the store on the web to view the products available. The site is: <http://masterygardener.tennessee.edu/mg%5Fstore/>

FINDING FLOWERS IN PHILLY

It's time once again for the annual Philadelphia flower show March 9-11. If you choose to join a group from East Tennessee traveling to Philadelphia by bus, contact Adventureland Travel at 423-477-0199. This group will tour the city on Saturday and visit Longwood Gardens on Sunday. The price of \$430.00 includes a single room. Two person rooms are \$350.00. Triples are \$310.00 and quadruples cost \$295.00. Pick up stops will be made in Johnsons City, Kingsport, and Bristol. If you would like to learn more about this trip, please contact Judy Penley 423-357-3312.

HOME BUILDERS SHOW SCHEDULED



The Home Builders Show is scheduled March 2 - 4, 2007 at Meadowview Conference Center. Master Gardeners may earn volunteer hours by serving as ticket takers for this event. Four volunteers are still needed to fill two shifts: 3:30 to 6:00 and 6:00 to 8:00. Please contact Doug Hilton at 423-239-9433 to sign up.

Let me light up your garden life. BY GLEN KEUP

As a new Master Gardener Intern, I want to become inVOLved. My name is Glenn Keup (pronounced koy-p). I am a graduate of the Fall 2006 Master Gardener course. So, some of you already know me, and the rest of you will be seeing me around in the next few years at one plant swap or another.

I currently teach Criminal Justice and Electrical courses at Sullivan Central High School. So, what can I help you with? How about landscape lighting? Prior to teaching at Central High, I ran my own electrical business—mainly around Kingsport. A few of the large lighting stores in the area would refer me to install lighting for their customers. As a result, I began learning more about the ambiance of proper lighting. In the following newsletters, I will pass on some of the tips and tricks that I have learned, so that your landscape lighting will enhance your gardens and flower beds.

Some of you work late hours, and by the time you get home, have dinner, and finish the work you brought home, would just like to relax and wind down from your busy day. Why just enjoy your flower beds and raised gardens during daylight hours? Gardens and flowerbeds can be enjoyed in the evening—not just during the day.

The builder or past owner of your house may have installed a two-light flood light system on the back of the house. This is what we call a task light, designed for a certain task—that of throwing a lot of light over an area for chasing off a burglar or the deer from your garden. This type of light is too harsh to sit and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

So, are you ready to wire up? First, we must decide how to power up our lighting system. There are three different currents we can use to power our systems—120v house current, solar power or low voltage (12volt). The difference here can mean a substantial difference in your electric bill. If you install the correct system, you can enjoy many more hours of your garden or flowerbeds, for pennies rather than dollars. In keeping with gardening *thrifftfully* we can do this while making it easy, simple and economical.

Let us leave the house current 120v system for a licensed electrician. The only time I installed house current systems was on extended driveway lengths where low voltages are not able to do the job properly.

At this time I suggest staying away from the solar powered lights. From the ones I have seen, they are cute, but the light output leaves something to be desired. Some reports I have seen say that the manufacturers are having a hard time finding enough solar panels to keep up with production. So do you think they are using the best or just what they can get their hands on? The only benefit I see with a solar panel light is that you can stick it wherever you want as long as it is in the sun during the day. The light will last only as long as it has received enough sunlight during the day, but on an overcast or cloudy day it will die out just about the time you're ready to enjoy it.

I suggest using a low-voltage lighting system. This system does not require wiring to be in conduit, 24 inches underground, or ground fault circuit protected. This is the first step at keeping it economical. I have seen 10 light low voltage sets on the internet and at the big box DIY stores for as little as \$60.00. If we were to rate these sets with a good better and best rating these sets would just be rated good. They will give you at least one or two seasons of trouble free operation before you have to put them out for the trash or try to recoup a few dollars at your spring garage sale. They are like the marigolds that volunteer year after year. A few more dollars will get you cast aluminum lights with a UV protected paint job that you will be able to enjoy for many years. Just hit one of those **plastic lights** with your weed trimmer after it has weathered two or three years, it does not rejuvenate itself like some plants.

Now that you have some food for thought, look at your yard and think about where you would like to see some accent lighting. After you have browsed the local nurseries, go see what is available in landscape lighting at the lighting showrooms. When you mulch your beds is a great time to lay the wire for your lighting system. A low voltage wire can be run under the mulch and is not going to zap you if you hit it with a trowel or plant stake.

My New Years wish for you is that after you have tended your garden and flower beds, you are able to enjoy it during the day and also on those warm balmy summer nights when you just don't feel like going to bed early.

Glenn Keup of Kingsport, Master Gardener Intern, E-mail at tnkeup@yahoo.com.

Would you like to be a guest columnist for the Master Gardener Thymes? Just submit your article to Jean Green by the 20th of the month - Feb, April, June, Aug, Oct or Dec.

LOGO CONTEST DEADLINE NEARS

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007 and as part of that celebration you are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity. The new logo should demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. The new logo and the title will be trademarked and protected by the USDA/CSREES.

Guidelines:

Submissions of a qualifying nature will be passed on to a panel appointed by the EMG-ECH committee. Appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics and the use of space will be used to measure the logo & slogan's merit. The winning logo & slogan will demonstrate the mission and understanding of the Extension Master Gardener Program to the general population. The approved mission statement is: "Certified Extension Master Gardener volunteers empower people and communities by delivering research-based horticulture programs and educational information." (Approved 11/06)

DEADLINE FOR JUDGEMENT

The contest will close on February 15th (postmark deadline). The committee will judge the entries and select the winner by March 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference.

SUBMISSION

Art submitted to the contest will not be returned to the artist. More than one original art piece can be entered per Master Gardener. Please mail all submission to:

Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH,
Area Specialist, Horticulture
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5305 Mill Street
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Contest details can be found at <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/BethsBits/index.htm>.



TREE ID CLASS STARTING SOON

A four-hour training session to prepare volunteers to identify Kingsport's trees will be held Feb. 3, 2007. This training session is the beginning of a project that will ultimately lead to the identification of all of the significant trees in the city. Seventy-five volunteers are needed to work during the months of February through May to complete the project. Four CEUs will be awarded to those participating. If interested, please contact Mike May at 423-246-2700.



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

<http://netmga.net>

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

DATES TO WATCH

Mon, Jan 8	Tennessee Master Gardener Conference Planning Meeting
Sat, Jan 13	Winter Gardening Seminar, Warrior's Path State Park 10:00–12:00 Joy Moore speaking on "Earth Friendly Gardening"
Sat–Sun, Jan 20-21	Farm Expo, Meadowview Convention Center, Kingsport, TN 10:00–6:00 Saturday and 1:00–6:00 Sunday
Sat, Feb 3	Tree Identification Class, Kingsport, TN
Mon–Tues, Feb 5-6	TNLA Winter Education and Exhibits Program, Pigeon Forge, TN
Wed, Feb. 21	"Train the Trainers Program," Wilson County Fairgrounds, TN
Sat–Sun, March 3-4	Home Builders' Show, Meadowview Convention Center, Kingsport, TN
Sat, March 3	Pruning Seminar, Evergreen Garden Center, Johnson City 10:30 AM Call 423-282-3431 for reservations.
Fri–Sun, March 9-11	Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Garden Tour
Sat–Sun, Mar 31-Apr 1	Aquatic Expo – by North American Water Garden Society, Jackson, TN
Wed–Sat, May 2-5	International Master Gardener Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas