



*** STATE CONFERENCE NEWS ***



Register NOW for the State Conference

Registration is now open for the 2007 Tennessee State Master Gardening Conference, June 8-10 at the Meadow View Convention Center and Resort in Kingsport, TN.

Early bird registration (postmarked prior to 3/15) is a fantastic deal at only \$135. This registration fee includes: breakout sessions on Friday (choose from among 20 sessions), talks throughout the day Saturday, tours, admission to the Garden Market vendor area, lunch and dinner Friday, breakfast and dinner Saturday, and breakfast Sunday. There will be a silent auction (donate an item and receive a free conference t-shirt!) and evening musical entertainment.

Remember, NETMGA members, you can earn \$\$ towards your conference fee by raising money from patrons to support the event. Contact Doug Hilton for details.

In addition to our keynote speakers, Erica Glasener and Roger Swain, experts from many fields will inform you on a diverse range of topics. A sampling of the speakers include Warren Hill on Bonsai, Tom Brown on heirloom apples, Michael Balogh on dwarf conifers, Anda Divine on ornamental grasses, Eric Johnson of Park Seed on the latest horticultural developments, Patricia Lanza on lasagna gardening, and Carol Reese on designing with light. Details on these, and 19 other presentations, are available at the conference website.

Vendors are still welcome. Tables are only \$50 for an 8x10 booth for the three days

<http://tnmgc2007.net>

For conference details and registration forms

<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/TRICC>

For information on MeadowView Hotel

of the conference. The vendor area will be open to the public as well as conference attendees. A sampling of products being sold can be obtained at the conference website. Contact Jenny Clemmer, TNMG 2007 Conference, P.O. Box 6455, Kingsport, TN 37663 for further vendor information.

As always you can visit the mastergardener.tennessee.edu site for all things TMG!



TALKS SCHEDULED AT THE GARDEN MARKET



Shop, enjoy yourself, and earn CEUs at the Garden Market. Each talk attended earns you 0.5 CEUs towards this year's requirement. You don't need to be a conference attendee to take advantage of this learning opportunity. Throughout Saturday and Sunday, June 9th and 10th, experts in many areas of gardening will be giving talks and demonstrations in the Garden Market area.

Topics will include: container gardening, how to create a terrarium, designing with ornamental grasses, water gardening, growing orchids, creating bonsai (hosted by NE TN's own bonsai society), how to use lavender, Lasagna Gardening by Pat Lanza, author of the popular book, Lasagna Gardening, and many more interesting and informative topics.

The 30 minute sessions are scheduled from 10:15 – 4:15 Saturday, 6/9, and 1:15 – 4:15 Sunday, 6/10, and are open to both Master Gardeners and the public. The schedule of sessions will be posted at the Garden Market and on the Tennessee Master Gardener Conference website, www.tnmgc2007.net.



BUY YOUR FAVORITE BOOKS



Help us help ourselves by purchasing those gardening books you've longed for at the Garden Market. Books-A-Million will have a booth at our June conference and has graciously agreed to donate 20% of their weekend receipts to our association! You do not even need to be a conference attendee to take advantage of this opportunity as the Garden Market area is open to the public.

We'll have books authored by some of our wonderful speakers, including Roger Swain, Erica Glasener, and Dr. Fred Alsop. All have agreed to autograph your purchases while at our conference. In addition Books-A-Million will have on hand books recommended by other speakers on topics including: fruits, dwarf conifers, herbs, mushrooms, wildlife, urban trees, ornamental grasses, etc..

Popular garden classics and reference books such as Margie Hunter's Tennessee Native Plants and Michel Dirr's Woody Plants will also be for sale.

If you have any other books you've wanted to buy, let us know and Books-A-Million will carry them too. Should you have some favorites that you'd recommend to other gardeners, let us know those titles as well. Please do not contact Books-A-Million directly but instead send your requests and suggestions to Nina Hedrick, Hedrick@chartertn.net.



"Growing a New Tomorrow"

TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

www.tnmgc2007.net



Pick a Project and Dig In

As part of the state conference NETMGA will be showcasing several gardening projects. In order to have them looking their best, we are seeking volunteers to "pretty them up." The projects that will be part of the conference are marked with an * below. Other on-going projects also need volunteers. Pick your favorite project from the list below and let's get growing!

***BUTTERFLY GARDEN - Kingsport Greenbelt** Please come to the garden on the last Thursday of the month beginning March 29th at 9:00 a.m. Bring pruners, scratchers, or any other tools you think we might need and plan to work for an hour at least. Butterfly Garden is off Rt. 93 N accessed thru the Ramada (name has changed) exit on 11 W. Stay to the Left and go all way to end over the little bridge where there is parking. Contact Lois Bronson 239-4285 or honeybee37@charter.net

***GREENBELT GARDENS - Kingsport** These gardens need to be cleaned up and readied for the tours during the Conference - Contact Dennis Marshall marshalls3@earthlink.net or Doug Hilton at 239-9433 if you are in need of hours.

***WARRIORS PATH STATE PARK – Kingsport** Boundless Playground - MG Project in cooperation with the Lions Club (Doug Haseltine) with Century Garden and Braille Trail. Gwyn Duncan, Nina Hedrick, and Joy Moore are MG Contacts

APPALACHIAN FAIRGROUND Areas include Herb garden, water garden, children's garden, oriental garden, entrance gates gardens. Also, in cooperation with Johnson City Power Board - plantings of trees suitable for growing under power lines. Doug Hilton is MG contact at 239-9433. Also contact Johnda Burdette at 610-7109

***INDIAN PATH HOSPITAL HEALING GARDEN** (in front of hospital) Anyone interested in working on this project will need to have their TB test updated and paperwork completed at the hospital to work as a volunteer. Contact Carlotta Paulsen-Boaz at 378-9361

ALLANDALE MANSION, KINGSFORT Perennial and rose gardens. Contact Ken Hyche at 288-5834

JOHNSON CITY MEDICAL CENTER Healing Garden, also shaded flower beds at the hospital entrance. In addition, this is an informal education opportunity (answering questions when working at the entrance) MG Contacts - Dennis Marshall and Barbara Voigt

The following list includes projects that are in various states of development. They need help!

ETSU ARBORETUM Need help with planting, signs, brochures. Dr. Tim McDowell, ETSU is the contact

SYCAMORE SHOALS HOSPITAL Healing garden has been abandoned - needs new life!

SYCAMORE SHOALS STATE HISTORIC AREA Herb garden and historic gardens need lots of help.

ROCKY MOUNT

INDIAN PATH HOSPITAL Dennis Marshall, contact

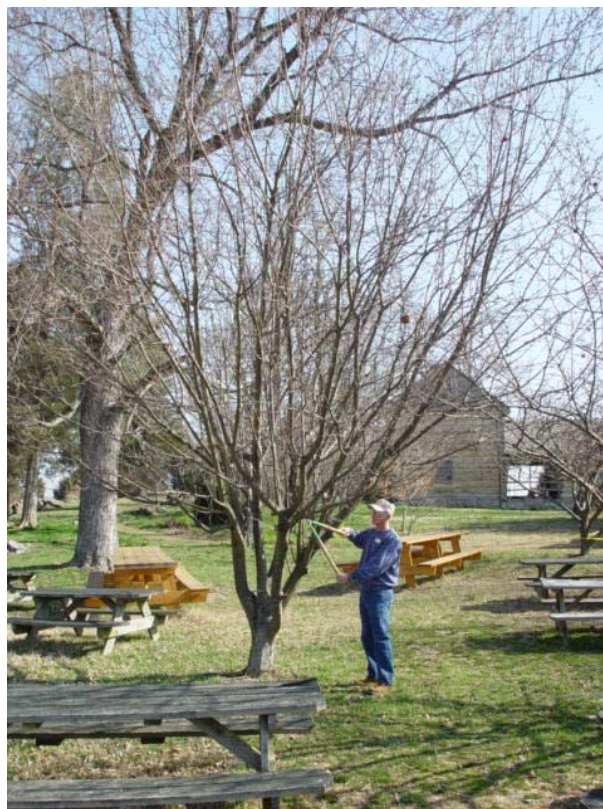
UNICOI COUNTY COURTHOUSE Currently being developed, work to begin later in 2007 due to HVAC renovation at the facility. Valerya Hyrne, MG Contact, 743-9093.

Anyone working on any of these projects is encouraged to take pictures to submit for the newsletter, web site, and our historical documents.



Pruning a grape vine above, pruning a fruit tree at right

PREPARE FOR PRUNING



The Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop will be on Saturday, March 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Rocky Mount Historical Site in Piney Flats. Bring your pruners and practice what you learn. Light refreshments will be served. Rocky Mount is located off of Hwy 11-E just before Tractor Supply on the left as you travel toward Johnson City. For more information, call 279-2723.

LEARN TO GRAFT

Learn to graft a fruit tree! Grafting sessions will be held Thursday March 22. Interested individuals may attend the morning session at 9:30 am or the evening session at 6:30 pm. Limited supplies of apple and cherry are available. If you are interested call 279-2723 for more information.

EXCHANGE PLACE FESTIVAL SCHEDULED

The Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair will be held Saturday April 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday April 29 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Fair will be held at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, Tennessee. The Fair will feature thousands of plants for sale with an emphasis on herbs, perennials, native, and heirloom plants. Other items for sale include garden accessories, related crafts and baked goods. Also occurring are garden talks, children's activities, traditional music, and demonstrations of springtime activities on an 1850s farm such as sheep shearing and plowing.

For more information, call 423-288-6071 or see <http://exchangeplace.info>. Master Gardeners will have an information table. To volunteer to staff a shift, please call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail at jonmoore@tricon.net.

Gardening Tasks for March and April

These are suggested gardening tasks for your garden, depending on your location in northeast Tennessee!

March

If you don't know already, find out what the last spring frost date is for your area.

Begin sowing those seeds that will need 8-10 weeks indoors before transplanting.

Start cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower transplants.

Continue removing snow from shrubs, especially evergreens.

Don't prune spring-blooming shrubs, except to correct problems.

Continue inspecting houseplants & plants overwintered indoors for pests & diseases.

Fertilize early-flowering bulbs as they emerge.

Replant frost-heaved shrubs, trees, and perennials.

Plant pansies and other cold-tolerant annuals.

Test and tune up gasoline-powered equipment.

At the end of the month, or when the earth is crumbly, till the vegetable garden.

April

Begin digging new garden beds when the soil is workable.

Start weeding your beds.

Plant bare-root roses when the soil is workable.

Plant shrubs, trees, and vines you purchased balled-and-burlapped or in containers.

Continue replanting frost-heaved shrubs, trees, and perennials.

Tidy the mulch in your beds, adding more where necessary.

Add a layer of finished compost to your flowerbeds.

Sow seeds of hardy annuals and perennials outdoors.

Repair the lawn by sowing grass seed or laying patches of sod.

Direct-seed peas, fava beans, beets, lettuce, endive, onions, shallots, and spinach.

Move broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower transplants into the garden.

Start melons, pumpkins, summer squash, tomatoes, and winter squash indoors.

Start kitchen herbs indoors, to be transplanted outside.

Cut back shrubby herbs.

Compiled from Country Living Gardener Garden Almanac, A Month-by-Month Guide by Penelope O'Sullivan and the editors of Country Living Gardeners.

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Chris' Corner

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SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
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2007 will be the most exciting

year for the local Master Gardener program for several years. An awesome Master Gardener Conference has been planned for you and other Master Gardeners across the southeast. You can learn more about the conference at <http://tnmgc2007.net>. Our local Master Gardeners have the added benefit of not having all of the costs of traveling such as gas, hotel room, and some food on the road. So, take advantage of this awesome opportunity to meet other Master Gardeners from other parts of Tennessee as well as other states.

This will also be an exciting year in terms of project opportunities. Master Gardeners have many possibilities this year to get involved and accumulate hours for recertification. Our projects have come to include healing gardens, a

sensory garden, plant clinics, educational programming, demonstration gardens, and many other opportunities. There are also many opportunities for you to get CEUs (Continuing Education Units). Now is the time to make your plans for getting involved and getting these hours. Call me for more information about projects or CEU opportunities.

You may have wondered about the discount card. We are in the process of getting these cards mailed to certified Master Gardeners. You should have this card by March 3.

The Master Gardener program continues to grow and has much promise for Master Gardeners and the community for 2007.

I have also posted the following Master Gardener information on my website sullivan.tennessee.edu:

Master Gardener Report Form
Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities
Master Gardener CEU Opportunities.

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council Plans Annual Symposium

Come and learn everything you ever wanted to know about handling invasive plants in your yard. The program is planned for March 3, 2007 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The session will be held at the University of Tennessee Plant Biotech Building on the Agriculture Campus in Knoxville (Conference Rooms 156 and 157). Neal Denton will kick off the meeting as Keynote Speaker, followed by talks including: "What in the heck is an invasive plant?" "Is your landscape escaping?" and "How to control invasives using products off the shelves."

After lunch there will be a live auction to wake everyone up from the delicious lunch. Margie Hunter, author of "Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee: The Spirit of Place" will speak on Native Plant Alternatives to Invasive Exotic Plants. The day will end with a reception with an "Ask the Expert" session and a book signing by Margie Hunter.

Anyone interested in carpooling, contact Nina Hedrick Hedrick@chartertn.net

***Herbicide safety & application-pesticide recertification points available**

Conference registration: \$10

\$15 includes TN-EPPC membership

For registration information, contact www.tneppc.org or

Anni Self: (615) 837-5313 or anni.self@state.tn.us

FARM EXPO JAN 20-21, 2007



COME
TO

Garden Fest

Be sure to come to the Garden Fest at the Appalachian Fair Grounds on May 11 and 12, 2007. Call Doug Hilton if you would like to work in the MG information booth.

PROTECT YOUR HOME ENVIRONMENT – PARTICIPATE IN HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The dates for household hazardous waste disposal have been set for the counties of northeast Tennessee. See the calendar below for dates and places. Collections will be held from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Sullivan County - April 28, 2007
Sullivan Central High School parking lot, Blountville
Contact-Judy Hagan 392-8814
Marvin Johnson 279-2879

Johnson County– May 12, 2007
Johnson County Transfer Station
Mountain City
Contact-Clifton Dunn 423-727-7929

Washington County - May 12, 2007
Science Hill Vocational Parking Area on Liberty Bell Blvd., Johnson City
Contact-Charles Baines
423-753-1652

A Letter from the President....

A View from the Mountain....

I trust that you all have fared the winter well so far - braced against the icy winds, snow, and frigid temperatures armed with your favorite seed and nursery catalogs, working out garden plans for the year, and making lists of nurseries and garden centers that you would like to visit during the upcoming season – oh my!

On the rare warm days, we have been busy at our home. We mowed down the dead plants on our vegetable garden, and did some rethinking of how we want to lay out the garden for the coming growing season. We have a new tiller and have to resize the rows in the garden so that in July and August, *hopefully*, we will be able to get the tiller through the garden. When the tiller was purchased in June last year, the garden was already laid out and growing. By late July it was tough to get the tiller through the garden! Oh the lessons we learn from our gardens!

So what lessons have you learned from the prior growing season and with the Master Gardeners? Are there things that you would like to repeat or toss in 'the compost pile' (I won't tell you what our elderly neighbor called the compost pile, but you can imagine!).

Do you have your 8 hours of CEUs earned for 2007 yet? We have so many opportunities for CEUs! Our NETMGA programs, SAPs programs, the Saturday morning gardening seminars at Evergreen in Johnson City and Kingsport, seminars at BB Barns in Asheville, North Carolina (this is some distance, but combine this with a day or two in Asheville, it is a great trip!), programs at the UT Gardens in Knoxville and the North Carolina Arboretum and the Asheville Botanical Gardens, and the upcoming season of garden shows are just a few of the wealth of opportunities to earn CEUs to remain a certified Master Gardener!

Registration has begun for our TN State Master Gardeners Conference. Have you looked at the Conference information and chosen the sessions that you would like to attend? Have you sent in your registration? (Early registration closes March 15, 2007) Have you found a State Conference committee to work with to earn volunteer hours and help this Conference come to be? Have you encouraged other MGs to attend the Conference? This is such a great opportunity to attend such a gardening event so close to all of us!!

For this coming gardening season, how about trying something new? Try growing something different in your garden - either a new plant, a new cultivar, or who knows? How about going to a seminar that has nothing to do with your current gardening experience - like going to a rose seminar!! You may never have roses, but you are cultivating your gardening experiences, and maybe can share some of this experience with someone who may benefit from your experience!

How about helping out at a Master Gardening volunteer project that is different from the projects that you are participating in now? Perhaps you could help with a water gardening project or children's garden project? You may get hooked on a new project - but again, you are cultivating gardening experiences that you may use in some form in the future.

Yes I keep talking about opportunities - and the coming Spring brings so much promise and many gardening opportunities, sooner or later depending where you live in our region. We can learn so much from our gardens and gardening experiences, and from our fellow Master Gardeners. Have you had a cup of tea (o.k. coffee for many of you!) with a Master Gardener lately, and talked about gardening, our volunteer and CEU opportunities, and gleaned something from the experience?

Happy early Spring to all of you. I hope that you will try something new for the new season!

Valerya

LEARN THE LATEST ABOUT DAYLILIES

Keith Hart, Carter County Extension Agent, will present a program on daylilies on Tuesday April 24 at 6:00 pm at the Gray Community Center. Keith is very knowledgeable about daylilies, and is an interesting speaker. Keith will talk about preparing locations for daylilies, culture, dividing, new cultivars for this year, and how to have daylilies as long as possible in north east Tennessee gardens. Plan now to attend.



FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW SET FOR SEVIER COUNTY

The Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association is planning a Flower and Garden Show for April 14th, 2007, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Sevier County Fairgrounds. Vendors will be present to sell plants, gardening items and services. Also, speakers are scheduled throughout the day for Master Gardeners to earn CEUs.

Speakers and their schedules include:

9:30 am Glenna Julian - Backyard Wildlife

11:00 am John Adams - Creating and Care of Outdoor Ponds

1:00 am Dr. Susan Hamilton - Best Garden Plants for Tennessee

3:00 am Honey Rock Herb Farm - Secrets of Herb Gardening

Special activities are planned for children and entertainment will include **"The Grace Noters"** dulcimer group and **"jojo and mamom"** singers. Refreshments will be available and Door Prizes will be given away hourly.

REMINDERS

Dues are due! Be sure to pay your dues to Sabrina Bader. You can contact her at 423-477-8937 or paulsebrina@earthlink.net.

Be sure to record your hours as you earn them!! Go to the Tennessee Master Gardener Web Site http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/mg_resources/ or contact Gwyn Duncan at 423-239-0460 or geduncan@charter.net

GATHER FOR THE GARDEN GALA

Plan to come to Jonesborough on May 26 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm for the Jonesborough Garden Gala. Scheduled events include morning seminars, an all day orchid show, vendors, afternoon garden tours and a "tablescapes" display at the Visitors Center. For more information contact Nancy Kavanaugh at 423-753-6964.

DATES TO WATCH

2007

- March 3 Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council Program – Invasive plants
University of Tennessee
- March 10 Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop 11:00 a.m.
Rocky Mount Historical Site in Piney Flats
- March 10 Master Gardeners' Spring Fling
Red Barn – Agricenter International, Memphis, TN
- March 15 Last day for Early Bird Registration for State Conference
- March 22 Fruit tree grafting sessions (9:30 am or 6:30 pm.)
- March 29 Work day for Butterfly Garden on Kingsport Greenbelt – 9:00 am
(Continuing last Thursday of each month)
- March 31 Herb Presentation by Samantha Loftin
Tipton Haynes State Historic Site, Johnson City
- March 31 Tree Sale - Sullivan County Soil Conservation District
Hwy 126, Blountville, TN
- April 14 Flower and Garden Show, Sevier County Fairgrounds
- April 24 Day Lilly program, Gray Community Center
- April 28, 29 Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair
Exchange Place Living History Farm, Kingsport
- April 28 Hazardous Household Waste Disposal - Sullivan County
Sullivan Central High School parking lot , Blountville
- May 11-12 Garden Fest, Appalachian Fair Grounds
- May 12 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal-Johnson County
Johnson County Transfer Station, Mountain City
- May 12 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal-Washington County
Science Hill Vocational Parking Area
- June 8-10 State Master Gardening Conference
Meadow View Convention Center Kingsport, TN
-

HOW TOs FOR HERBS

Master Gardener Intern and herb enthusiast Samantha Loftin will present "The How (and Why) of Growing Herbs in Containers" at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 31, at Tipton Haynes State Historic Site, 2602 S. Roan Street in Johnson City. This Herb Saplings program is part of the 4th Annual Andre Michaux Day at Tipton Haynes. Everyone is invited.

Samantha planted her first herb garden when she moved to Tennessee, 30 years ago, and herbs have been a great part of her life ever since. At one time she owned an herb shop and farm, and she helped start the Southernwood Herb Society in Bristol in the early 1990's. Samantha has taught and lectured on many herb topics, including the history and use of herbs.

Andre Michaux Day activities at Tipton Haynes will take place on March 31 from 8 am to 2 pm and will include Breakfast with the Birds, wildflower walks, a plant sale (native plants, herbs and heirlooms from Shy Valley Plant Farm) and Charlie Williams portraying French botanist/explorer Andre Michaux. For more information about Andre Michaux Day call 423-926-3631. For more information on Herb Saplings, SAPS' herb focus group, call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail jonmoore@tricon.net.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please make the following e-mail changes in your Master Gardener address list:

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 Jean Green – gardenergreen@gmail.com



Ben Hunter's *Extending Your Garden Season* seminar at Mize Garden Center in Gray

ATTENTION ALL MGs STAY FULLY INFORMED

Tennessee Master Gardener can keep you in the loop if you join the information listserv. To join:

1. Visit the website <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/tmq.html>
2. Click on "Join or leave the list (or change settings)"
3. Add your information to the required fields.

This listserv is a self join and self leave list. If you have email address changes you can make them on your own. On this list you will receive no more than one email per week on educational, volunteer or TMG program opportunities. If you have information your group would like to share please send it to ebabbit@utk.edu for the weekly email. We will do our best to add the information to the next listserv letter.



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>

TREES FOR SALE

The Sullivan County Soil Conservation District is sponsoring a tree sale to benefit their Scholarship Fund. The sale will be March 31, 2007, 9:00 a.m. at 3070B Hwy 126, Blountville, TN. The following trees will be sold:

White Pine Seedlings 20 for \$5
White Flowering Dogwood 2 for \$5 or \$3
Eastern Redbud \$3
Red Crape Myrtle \$2
Forsythia \$3
Double Red Althea (Rose of Sharon) \$2
Common Lilac \$2
Sugar Maple \$3
Bradford Pear \$10
Yellow Delicious Apple \$8
Blackberries Thornless \$5
Southern Magnolia \$2



All trees are bare root seedlings. Call Pat Evans at 423-323-7431 Ext 3 for more information.