



Master Gardener Thymes

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 5

SEPT / OCT 2010



The Braille Trail

at October's NETMGA Meeting

Plan now to attend the October 4th meeting of NETMGA to be held at **Warriors' Path State Park** in Kingsport. Beginning at 6:00, Master Gardeners will lead a tour of the Braille Trail, highlighting a variety of native plants including trees, shrubs, wildflowers, ferns, and vines. Forty varieties of native plants have been established along the trail. All plants chosen for the Braille Trail are not only native to this area but also native to the park.

After the tour, the group will move to the meeting room on Duck Island for light refreshments and a slide presentation about the native plants within the park. Some of the fascinating facts about these native plants include that they are:

- Beautiful and fragrant
- Well adapted to our area which means they are hardy and can withstand our fluctuating temperatures and are drought resistant
- Low maintenance, needing little water or fertilizer once established
- Nearly carefree with few pests or diseases if well sited
- Valuable sources of habitat and food for native animals
- Beneficial in bringing insects to the landscape
- Bio-diverse – helping provide a healthy ecosystem
- Part of our natural heritage

Directions – From I-81 exit 59, go north on Fort Henry Dr. (Rt. 36) for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto Hemlock Rd. Go approx. 1.5 miles and you'll come to the park entrance. Continue past the park office, the swimming pool entrance and down the hill to the marina. Park near the entrance to the Boundless Playground (limited parking) or across the street from the Marina. The Braille Trail native plant walk will start at the entrance to the Boundless Playground. Please bring a finger food to share. Guests are welcome.

FALL MG CLASS SCHEDULE SET

The Fall 2010 Master Gardener Classes will be held at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, 108 Colonial Heights Road in Kingsport. Classes will be held in the evening this year on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 9:00 PM, with a few exceptions. Classes begin September 9 and continue until November 11, 2010. The Graduation Dinner will be held on November 18, 2010.

All MGs and MG Interns are welcome to attend the classes to learn more about gardening and to earn certification points.

The complete schedule follows.

MASTER GARDENER 2010 CLASS SCHEDULE

9/9	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Overview: Chris Ramsey and Beth Babbitt
9/14	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Intro to Horticulture: Tim McDowell
**9/16	Thursday	7:00 PM at Renaissance Center - Kpt	Gathering in the Garden: Felder Rushing
**9/18	Saturday	9:30 AM -12:30 PM at ETSU Biology Bldg Courtyard	Trees and Shrubs: Mr. Conlon, Dr. McDowell, Dr. Levy
9/21	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Soils: Hubert Lambert
**9/23	Thursday	NO CLASS	
**9/25	Saturday	1-3:30 PM at Dr. Moyer's House	Fruits: Dr. Richard Moyer
9/28	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Entomology: Manny Bedwell
**9/30	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at Ben Hunter's House	Compost: Ben Hunter
10/5	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Lawn / Turf: Chris Ramsey
10/7	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Weed Science: Chris Ramsey
10/12	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Water Management: Joy Stewart
10/14	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Bees and Pollinators: Dr. John Skinner
**10/19	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at Tipton Haynes Hist Site	Propagation: Bo Shadden, Larry Nave
**10/21	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at Rocky Mount Historic Site	Pesticides: Ty Petty
10/26	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Pruning: Hugh Conlon
10/28	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Integrative Pest Management: Joy Moore
11/2	Tuesday	NO CLASS ELECTION DAY	
11/4	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Vegetables: Ben Hunter
11/9	Tuesday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Plant Pathology: Keith Hart
11/11	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Annuals and Perennials: Kathleen Moore
11/18	Thursday	6:30 - 9:30 PM at CHBC	Graduation Dinner

Classes meet 6:30 to 9:30 PM at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, located beside Zoomer's. Attendees are asked to enter the church through Door A and follow signs in the hallway showing the way to the classes downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

** denotes a change in place or time



Chris' Corner

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

Please note: HOURS DEADLINE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO DEC 31 TO ALIGN WITH THE STATE! The Annual Recognition Dinner will be held at the February Meeting. Please pass this message along to your MG friends who may not see this message. This change will prevent confusion with entry of volunteer hours. This doesn't mean you should procrastinate and enter hours after Christmas. Send hours to me or Angie Droke periodically throughout the year. Always keep a copy for your records.

The Master Gardener program continues to improve. The major reason for this improvement is the support provided by the local organization, the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association. I can't emphasize enough how important this group is to the continued growth of the program. So much more can be accomplished when numbers of people work toward a common goal. The association is always looking for good candidates for the board. If you have a passion for leadership, I would encourage you to throw your name in the hat for the 2011 Officer Elections.

It's easy to fall back and support an organization through membership. If everyone took this approach, there wouldn't be an organization. I hope you'll continue to support NETMGA by paying the modest annual dues. You and the local Master Gardener program will be rewarded as we move through the next decade.

Have a great fall, Chris

A Letter From The President

I hope everyone is having a good year in the garden. It also looks like the Farmer's Markets in the area are being well supported judging by the crowds I have seen when I visited them. It's good to eat the things you grow or that are grown locally. What would summer be without home grown tomatoes? Is there anything that tastes better? There were at least 2 or more Tomato Fests reported this year in the local papers. There was even one in Union Square New York according to the "New York" magazine. Farmers Markets are called Greenmarket there. This year the tomato winners were Aunt Ruby's German Green, Striped German, Cherokee Purple, Green Zebra, and Brandywine.

It does not seem that it is almost time for my term as President to end. I want to thank everyone for the support they have given NETMGA this year by participation in the projects and attending our programs. Please consider helping again with the upcoming Master Gardener training classes.

Yours in Gardening,
Johnny Suthers

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? OFFER TO SERVE AS A NETMGA OFFICER

NETMGA Board of Directors has openings for several positions for the year 2011. This is a great opportunity to shape the direction of NETMGA, to meet excited, energetic people, and to earn certification hours. The requirement for being on the ballot is to be a current paid member of NETMGA. It is suggested that the nominees also be a certified Master Gardener. Please notify current president Johnny Suthers by September 25 if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else. (ichemie@aol.com)

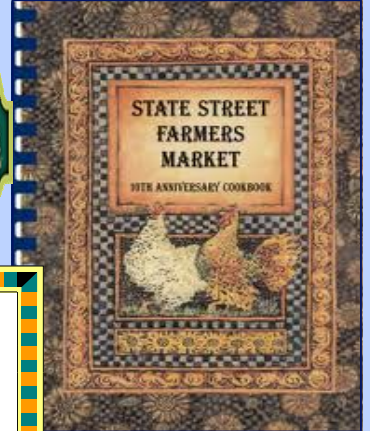
Johnny will contact the nominees to see if they are willing to serve if elected. A ballot for voting will appear in the November-December newsletter. Voting will be held during the first three weeks in November with a closing date of November 19th.

The positions for nomination are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programs, Projects, and Web-site coordinator.

Thanks for your consideration and willingness to serve.



Blountville TN
Thursday 2:00-6:00
 Sullivan County Offices
 Parking Lot
 Corner of old Hwy 37
 & Hwy 126



Bristol TN
Saturdays 7:00-11:00
Wednesdays 3:00-7:00
 810 State Street



Kingsport TN
Saturdays & Wednesdays
7:00 to 1:00
 Corner Center & Clinchfield

**SHOP
 LOCAL
 FARMERS'
 MARKETS**

September and October are wonderful months to select fresh produce at area Farmers' Markets. Check this list for some of the larger markets in the area. Some schedules may change once October arrives, so check before making a long drive!



Jonesborough TN
Saturdays 8:00-12:00
 Courthouse Square



Abingdon VA
Saturdays 7:00-12:00 Tuesdays 3:00-6:00
 Corner Rensburg Dr & Cummings St.



Gray TN
Saturdays & Wednesdays
7:00 -12:00
 Appalachian Fairgrounds

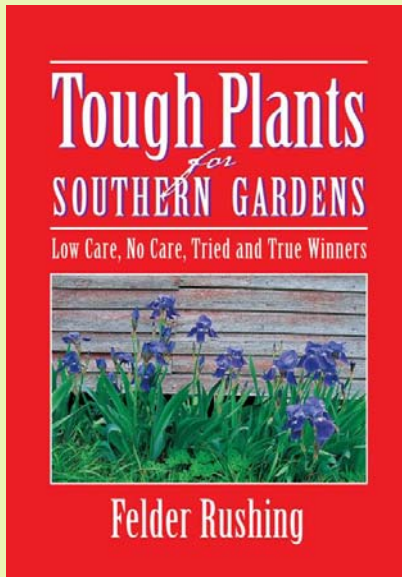


Johnson City TN
Saturdays & Wednesdays
7:00-2:00
 500 South Roan St.

Purchase Fall Plants at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 38th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 25, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, September 26, from 12 noon to 5 pm. The Festival will focus on harvest time activities on an 1850s farm with an emphasis on pioneer arts and crafts, ol' timey foods, music, children's activities and living history reenactments. Artisans will demonstrate and sell a wide array of traditional folk arts, and the Harvest Market will feature plants, autumn produce and seasonal crafts. Admission is \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children. For more information, call 423-288-6071. To volunteer to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth, please call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail at ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

Horticulturist and Author Coming to Kingsport



Evening Program

Renown horticulturist and prize-winning author **Felder Rushing** will present two programs in Kingsport on Thursday, September 16. The 10th generation southern gardener known for his offbeat garden designs and his humorous presentations will deliver the annual Gathering in the Garden lecture on ***Slow Gardening – Getting the Most Out of Your Garden in All Seasons, Using All Your Senses*** at 7 p.m. on September 16, at Kingsport Renaissance Center, 1200 E. Center Street in Kingsport.

With stunning photography and an offbeat, “down home” approach filled with humorous anecdotes and zany observations, Rushing will help gardeners learn to garden for the long haul, to focus on seasonal rhythms, to choose plants most appropriate to local conditions, and to sit back and actually enjoy their gardens. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society, this program is free and the public is invited. Copies of Felder’s books will be available for purchase and signing.

Morning Workshop

Earlier in the day Rushing will lead a workshop on ***Growing Cool-Season Edibles in Pots*** from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Evergreen Home and Garden Showplace, 1413 Riverport Road in Kingsport. In this hands-on workshop, perfect for September, participants will learn how to grow vegetables and herbs in containers and will take home a pot filled with an assortment of cool weather edibles. The cost of the workshop is \$25 for SAPS members (\$40 for non-members) and includes all materials – plants, container, and potting medium. To reserve a place, mail check, payable to SAPS, to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Registration is limited. Deadline is September 13. Sorry, no cancellations or refunds, but we will save the materials for you if you have to cancel.

For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

Register Now for Eastern Regional Master Gardener Day

Sevier County Master Gardeners have planned an exciting array of events on October 2 for the 2010 Eastern Region Master Gardener Day. The activities will be held at the Agriculture Campus Plant Science Building on the UT Campus in Knoxville. Registration begins at 8:30 and sessions run from 9:15 to 4:30. In addition to the educational sessions a plant swap and silent auction will be held and lunch will be offered. The registration fee is \$25.00 and the deadline for registering is September 21, 2010. For more information e-mail Alan Bruhin, wbruhin1@utk.edu.

Educational sessions and tours will be held on the following topics:

- **Organics**, Annette Wszelaki, UT, Assistant Professor, Ext. Plant Science
- **Back Yard Birds**, John Oakberg, Sevier County Master Gardener
- **TNMG Alliance**, Doug Hilton
- **Heirloom seeds and farming practices of our ancestors**, John Coykendall
- **Turf Grass**, Tom Samples, UT professor
- **Herbs, Fruits and Tablesapes**, Sevier County Master Gardeners
- **From Garden to Table: How to care for fresh vegetables after gathering them.** Chris Sneed, Blount County Extension
- **Out of your Gourd**, Roger Simpson, Sevier County Master Gardener
- **Growing and Maintaining Beautiful Roses**, Charles and Robbie Griggs, Knox County Master Gardeners
- **Making Herbal Face Scrubs**, Casey Berg and Judy Denton, Sevier Co. Master Gardeners
- **Organic and Turfgrass Farm Bus Tour**, Tom Samples and Annette Wszelaki
- **Tour of UT Kitchen Gardens**, Dr. Sue Hamilton
- **Outdoor Photography**, Roger Simpson
- **Tour of UT Rose Gardens**, Mark Windham

2010 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

netmga2009@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT

Johnny Suthers
423-229-3263
jchemie@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Drought
423-928-0225
mommpurr@aol.com

SECRETARY

Blenda Anderson
423-276-3028
blajaa5755@charternet.net

TREASURER

Pat Mazurkiewicz
423-323-1644
robmazur@charternet.net

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Angie Droke
423-578-8281
adroke@charternet.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Valerya Hyrne
(423) 743-9093
catsmeow24@embarqmail.com

2010 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP

Sally Richard
(423) 341-6166
sdr37615@comcast.net

PROJECTS

Kathy Waldo
(423) 913-2121
kathywaldo@embarqmail.com
and
Doug Hilton
(423) 239-9433
appfair@emparqmail.com

HOSPITALITY

Kathy & Larry Wagner
(423) 323-5446
kwagner@charternet.net

PUBLICITY

Teresa Tittle
(423) 967-3695
teresa5937@hotmail.com

2009 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

James Phillips
(423) 765-3559
amicaeearth@gmail.com

PROGRAM

Lisa Jones
(423) 239-8811
wle@charternet.net
and
Barbara Voigt
(423) 467-2013
voigt7b@comcast.net

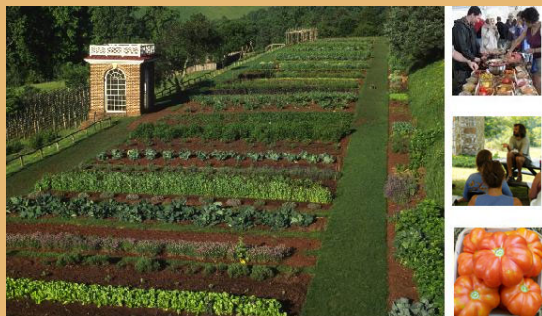
WEBSITE

Belinda Bridwell
belindagb@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER

Jean Green (Editor)
(423) 652-1756
gardenergreen@gmail.com
Junella McClellan (Layout Design)
(423) 534-8097
j.mcclellan@hotmail.com

Heritage Harvest Festival Planned in Charlottesville, VA



The 4th annual Heritage Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the West Lawn of Monticello in Charlottesville, VA.. Hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in partnership with Southern Exposure Seed Exchange and Central Virginia Master Gardeners, the festival is a fun, family-oriented, educational event promoting gardening, sustainable living, local food and the preservation of heritage plants.

At the heart of the Heritage Harvest Festival are over 40 educational programs, lectures, cooking demonstrations, and food tastings that include the ever popular Tomato Tasting. To kick off the event, Rosalind Creasy, founder of the edible landscape movement, will host a Preview lecture and local foods buffet dinner on Friday, September 10 at the Monticello Visitor Center. For more information on the Festival, visit www.heritageharvestfestival.com <<http://www.heritageharvestfestival.com/>> or call 434-984-981 for tickets.

Soil Probes Available for NETMGA Members

Soil sampling is easy with a soil probe. NETMGA members can borrow a soil probe from the UT Extension Sullivan County Office in Blountville. You'll be able to keep the probe for three days to complete your sampling. The Sullivan County Extension office does mail samples for your convenience.

Fall is a great time to soil sample your lawn and garden soil. The sample analysis will give you the phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium levels of the soil as well as the pH. The report will give a recommendation of fertilizer, lime or sulfur needed for the intended crop.

Call the UT Extension Sullivan County office at 279-2723 if you are interested in borrowing one of the soil probes.



Urban Forestry Conference Set in Chattanooga

The 2010 Urban Forestry Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, October 28 and 29 at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo. In addition, the 12th annual Tree-Climbing competition will be held Sat. Oct. 30. The Conference will feature Pre-Conference Workshops on:

- Sustainable Sites and Development Arboriculture
- Traditional and Utility Arboriculture

Other Conference Activities include:

- Chattanooga Urban Forestry Tour
- Opening Dinner with Tree Lore and Humor Talk
- Annual TUFC Meeting
- Tree Board Breakfast
- Featured Speaker: Gene Hyde, Chattanooga's Urban Forester
- Urban Forestry Awards of Excellence Luncheon
- Pesticide Points featured concurrent sessions



Sustainable, Urban Forestry, Conservation, and Green Infrastructure are concurrent sessions.

For more information visit the web site: <http://urbanforestryconference.org/ufc/schedule.html>

KKB Seeks New Members



The Keep Kingsport Beautiful Beautification Committee is looking for new members. The mission of the committee is to beautify the Kingsport area through education, gardening projects and events using volunteer efforts and horticultural knowledge. Committee projects include organizing gardening lectures, garden tours, and participating in Conservation Camp for 4th graders, and Arbor Day and Tree Fund plantings. Service on this committee counts as Master Gardener community volunteer hours. If you would like to serve on the committee or for more information, contact Megan Watson, KKB director, at 423-392-8814 or megan.louk.watson@gmail.com.

NC Arboretum Sets Fall Events

September 11-12 - Carolinas Dahlia Society Annual Show: Enjoy bright blooms on Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free with the parking fee.

Sept 18 - Fungifest! Join the Asheville Mushroom Club of the North American Mycological Society for day-long lectures, classes and events from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 19 - WNC Orchid Society Auction: Noon to 4 p.m. Free with parking fee.

October 9-10 - 15th Carolina Bonsai Expo: This two-day horticultural extravaganza features a juried display of bonsai by clubs from across a six-state region, a renowned bonsai marketplace, workshops, free demonstrations, and a popular Ikebana exhibit.

October 16-17 - NC Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show: Free with the parking fee.



The Buds & Sprouts Program pairs a Master Gardener (BUD) with a member of the incoming class (SPROUT) for the purpose of friendship and information sharing. You also earn volunteer hours! Lois Bronson will pair you with a class member and provide more information. Please contact her at honeybee37@charter.net or 423-239-4285. Thanks Lois for heading up this wonderful program again this year!



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>

netmga2009@yahoo.com

2010 DATES TO WATCH

- Sept 9 Master Gardener Classes Begin Central Heights Baptist Church
- Sept. 10- 12 Fall Naturalist Rally Roan Mt State Park (Call 423-477-2235)
- Sept. 11-12 Carolina Dahlia Society Show and Sale NC Arboretum
- Sept. 16 Morning Presentation by Felder Rushing, Evergreen Garden Center, Kingsport 10:00 AM
Evening Presentation by Felder Rushing, Renaissance Center 7:00 PM
- Sept. 18 FungiFest NC Arboretum
- Sept. 19 WNC Orchid Society Auction NC Arboretum
- Sept. 25 Last Day for NETMGA Board Nominations
- Sept. 25-26 Fall Festival Exchange Place
- Oct. 2 Easter Region Master Gardener Day UT Knoxville
- Oct. 4 NETMGA Meeting Warrior's Path State Park 6:00 PM
- Oct 9 -10 Carolina Bonsai Expo NC Arboretum
- Oct 16 Fall Festival Warrior's Path State Park
- Oct. 16-17 NC Chrysanthemum Show NC Arboretum
- Oct. 28-29 Urban Forestry Conference Chattanooga
- Nov 29 NETMGA meeting Gray fairgrounds