



Master Gardener Thymes

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JAN / FEB 2011

Congratulations TO NEW NETMGA OFFICERS

Newly elected officers for NETMGA for 2011 are:

President – Blenda Anderson

VP – Karen Drought

Secretary – Kathy Waldo

Treasurer – Pat Mazurkiexicz

Projects – Johnny Suthers

Website – Carl Voigt

The position of “Programs” is still open at this time.

Nominations were sought for seven positions as officers and Board of Directors of NETMGA for the year 2011. Voting was open during the first three weeks in November with a closing date of November 19th.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

I want to thank each and every one of you for a great year in the NETMGA organization. I look forward to seeing you at our annual Awards Banquet in February. We have had a successful year in Programs, Projects and Service in our Master Gardener area. The very informative program in November with our Project presentations was a fitting cap to our year. I can't wait to see the awards presented and the hours of service recognized at our February meeting. So give yourselves a pat on the back from me.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your President in 2010.

Johnny Suthers
Past President NETMGA

Prepare to be Honored!

NETMGA's annual Recognition and Awards Dinner will be held on Monday, Feb. 7th in the Farm and Home Building at Gray Fairgrounds at 6:00 PM. At this meeting MGs will be recognized for their volunteer service hours. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish. Guests are welcome.

KEEP CHRISTMAS GREEN A LITTLE LONGER

Live Christmas trees will be recycled as fish habitats through a program sponsored by Keep Kingsport Beautiful, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, and Lakeview Marina and Marker 2 Grill. From December 27 through January 23, trees may be brought to the parking lot next to the swimming pool at Warrior's Path State Park. From there the trees will be placed in local lakes to replace natural cover that has been lost or destroyed.

According to Russell Young with the Fisheries Habitat Work Unit or TWRA, "Fish are naturally drawn to the trees as a place to hide, spawn, or seek a nursery area. "



MIZE WINTER WORKSHOPS START IN JANUARY

The folks at Mize Garden Centers are offering those delightful and informative winter workshops once again. These are excellent opportunities to learn new gardening information and to get an early start on CEUs. Classes start at 10:00 and run till noon. The program schedule is listed below:

January 8 Johnson City
January 22 Gray

Four Season Gardening by Jeanne Cope and
Container Gardening by Joy Moore

February 12 Johnson City
February 26 Gray

Nutritional Requirements for Vegetables by Ben Hunter and
Planting by the Moon by Valerie Hyrne

March 12 Johnson City
March 26 Gray

Perennials for the Garden by Nina Hedrick and
What to Plant and Where to Plant It by Tim Holmes

April 9 Johnson City

Supporting Your Vegetable Garden by Martin Litz
(10:00 –1 1:30)

All workshops are free but participants are asked to register before each class. To register or for more information call 423-434-1800 in Johnson City or 423-467-2300 in Gray.



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
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THANK YOU for getting in your volunteer and continuing education hours. These volunteer hours are critical when we begin writing reports to show justification for the UT Extension Master Gardener Program. ***This year, the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners contributed 9,154 hours to projects in their communities.*** If you attended the last NETMGA meeting, I am sure you'll agree that there are plenty of opportunities to plug into and contribute to great impact of the Master Gardener program in Northeast Tennessee.

We have nineteen new Master Gardener Interns to welcome into our program for 2011. If you have the opportunity, please take some time to share your MG experiences.

The next statewide Master Gardener opportunity is the 2011 Master Gardener Winter School. Please consider attending this great event February 24 – 26 in Murfreesboro, T N. We will have several local MGs making the trip to this great "CEU" opportunity. You'll get to meet MGs from across the state and see projects from our area compete in the Search For Excellence Contest. There are information and downloadable forms on the state Master Gardener website. Contact me or one of the NETMGA board members if you have a question about the 2011 Master Gardener Winter School.

Flutter Over to Warrior's Path for a Butterfly Seminar

Warrior's Path State Park in Kingsport will hold its 22nd annual Winter Gardening Seminar January 15, 2011 from 10:00 to 12:00. The topic this year is "Butterfly Gardening – Attracting These Flying Wonders to Your Yard and Garden." Guest speak Kris Light will explain how to make your yard and garden more attractive and healthier for wildlife and human life. The seminar is free but preregistration is required. Contact Marty Silver at 423-239-8532 or Marty.Silver @tn.gov.





Learn Everything About Conifers!

Hugh Conlon, retired UT Extension Area Horticulturalist, will speak on ***Growing Conifers in Your Garden***, on Thursday, January 20 at 7 p.m. at the Washington County Farm Bureau Building (1103 Boones Creek Road) on Hwy 354 in Jonesborough. Though many people believe that you can't grow evergreens in the South, Hugh will present an astounding collection of needle evergreens that complement almost any garden. He will highlight his personal picks and pans. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information or e-mail injmoore@embarqmail.com call 423-348-6572. 1.5 CEUs.

Directions: From I-26 take Boones Creek/Jonesborough exit onto Hwy 354, turn toward Jonesborough and travel 4 miles, Farm Bureau bldg. on right. Park and enter in the rear of the building.

DISCOVER HOW TO HANDLE ANIMAL PESTS

Ashley Unger, Graduate Research Assistant, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries, UT Knoxville, will speak on ***Moles, Voles and Other Critters*** on Thursday, February 17, at 7 p.m. at the Johnson City Power Board Building Auditorium on Boones Creek Road (Hwy 354.) in Jonesborough. Unger will present an overview of common nuisance wildlife around the garden and why they are attracted to the backyard. She will explore methods for controlling wildlife through a discussion of common wildlife biology, exclusion or elimination methods, landscape planning, and land management. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information call 423-348-6572 or e-mail injmoore@embarqmail.com.



SHOP ONLINE FOR GARDENING PRODUCTS

Have you visited the Master Gardener Store?

<https://web.dii.utk.edu/agstore/c-49-master-gardener.aspx>

Check out the super comfortable Gardener's Kneeling Pads!



GROW YOUR SKILLS AT WINTER SCHOOL

The 2011 Master Gardener Winter School in Murfreesboro promises to be better than ever. Winter School will be held Feb. 24 – 26, 2011 at Lane Agri-Park in Murfreesboro, TN.

Once again two tracks will be offered, one for leadership and the other for education. Some of the keynote speakers for the Education Track include Dr. Cala Beyl from UT, Dr. Sue Hamilton, Director of UT Gardens, Dr. Jason DeKoff, Dr. Warren Anderson, and Beth Babbitt. These professional gardeners and educators will speak on topics ranging from “Empowering Volunteers,” to “Discovering Teaching Strategies for Every Student,” and Finding Inspiration From the Heart of the Garden.”

Speakers for the Leadership Track include Miles A. Burdine, Rhonda Sparks and Mark Clark.

They will conduct sessions on various topics and will also have a series of presentations “In the Round.” These will be fifteen minute round table discussions on various projects.

According to the planners, “Winter School 2011 offers excellent training and skills development with interesting and informative speakers, but most attendees are rewarded year after year through their interaction, connection and fellowship with other Master Gardeners across the state.”

Lodging is still available at the Clarion Inn and Suites and Comfort Inn and Suites in Murfreesboro. For more information contact Beth Babbit at ebabbit@utk.edu or visit the NETMGA website.

GROW YOUR FARMING SKILLS

On Saturday, February 26th, agricultural leaders from across our region will come together to teach hundreds of farmers about business planning, marketing, sales models, and community resources at Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project's (ASAP) eighth annual Marketing Opportunities for Farmers Conference (MOFF) held on the campus of Warren Wilson College near Asheville.

This year's workshop topics include structuring labor on the farm, managing a CSA, selling to local restaurants, farmers' market regulations, agritourism, business and marketing planning, beginning and advanced Quickbooks for farms, and much more.

The conference is only \$30 for one attendee or \$45 for two farm partners (if farmers register be-

fore February 1st) and includes breakfast, lunch, a resource notebook, much more.

For more details, visit the website: www.asapconnections.org/MOFF2011.html or call Anna Littman at 828-236-1282, ext 110; or e-mail her at





VISIT NASHVILLE FOR A WINTER CONFERENCE

East Tennessee MGs are invited to attend the third annual Tennessee Flower Growers Association Meeting in Nashville, January 28 and 29, 2011. The event will be held at the Nashville Airport Marriott. Register by January 5, 2011 to save \$25. All registrations processed after that date will be \$75 each.

Some of the topics to be presented are:

Succeeding with Flowering Shrubs in a Greenhouse,

Using Native Plants on Green Roofs,

Using Natural Fertilizers,

A New Box of Crayons - Plants which are changing our Landscape Pal-
let,

Fungicides that work (presented by local MG Hugh Conlon), and

Using Predatory insects in Greenhouses.

Go to <http://www.TNTHE.com> to register and for more information.

2011 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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LEARN MORE ABOUT ALPACAS

Submitted by Brenda Warner

In the Countryside of Jonesborough, Tennessee there is a farm called "Alpaca De Colores." I discovered this farm after meeting the owner, Ms. Celeste Mushet at an event at Aunt Willie's Wildflowers. Ms. Mushet's farm is the Devoe Farm on the Quilt Trail map.

Curious as ever since I had never seen an alpaca, I managed to get an invitation to scoop alpaca beans one morning. What I discovered was wonderful. The alpacas are a very shy breed, quiet and timid, coming up to me only when I had food in my hand. I then discovered what wonderful garments can be made from their fleece.

Since my first visit, Ms. Mushet had opened a gift shop with wonderful crafts. Some are made by her and others are sold on consignment. The gifts shop is truly a treasure to behold.

Please call Ms. Mushet at 423-753-0026 to arrange a visit. The address is 1208 Highway 81 North Jonesborough. If you ask, she may even give you some alpaca beans for your garden.



The Rebel's Hannah Mist, one of the farm's featured alpacas

WELCOME TO NEW MG INTERNS!

Nineteen people have completed their class work for the 2010 Master Gardener Program. Congratulations and welcome to the ever growing group of MGs in this area.

The new interns are: Judy Allen, Jessica Baez, Christine Barger, Rachel Ellis, Mary Fanslow, Van Gambrel, Arnold Hull, Gary Joyner, Karen Lewis, Amanda McCurry, Jane Mullins, Lori Paris, Philip Ramey, Ruth Ann Ranker, Dave Rust, Penny Rutledge, Jacquelyn Waddell, Theresa Warner and Steve Willey.

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place



Master Gardener Christy Shivell (left) displays her custom made wreaths at Christmas in the Country at Exchange place in early December.

In the photo on the right Joy Smith (left) teaches Master Gardener Eva Johnson (right) how to decorate with seed pods, nuts and other natural items.



DUES ARE DUE!

It's time to renew your NETMGA Membership for the 2011 year. Please complete the form below (making any needed changes to your contact information) and mail it with your payment to Sally Richard. Membership dues are **\$15.00** per year (**\$25.00** for a couple) and are due by January 31, 2011. Make your check payable to NETMGA and mail to:

Sally Richard, 137 Bentwood Lane, Gray, TN 37615

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Class Year _____

_____ Check if you cannot receive the newsletter via e-mail

_____ Check if you do not want your contact information shared with all members



Northeast Tennessee
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<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

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2011 DATES TO WATCH

January 1 - 23	Recycle Christmas Trees, Warrior's Path Park
January 8	Garden Seminar at Mize, Johnson City 10:00 am
January 15	Butterfly Seminar, Warrior's Path Park 10:00 am
January 20	Growing Conifers Jonesborough 7:00 pm
January 22	Garden Seminar at Mize, Gray 10:00 am
Jan. 28 - 29	Winter Conference, Nashville
February 7	NETMGA Annual Recognition Dinner, Gray Fairgrounds 6:00 pm
February 12	Garden Seminar at Mize, Johnson City 10:00 am
February 17	Animal Pest program, Jonesborough 7:00 pm
February 26	Garden Seminar at Mize, Gray 10:00 am
February 26	Farmers' Conference, Asheville
Feb. 24 - 26	Master Gardener Winter School, Murfreesboro
March 12	Garden Seminar at Mize, Johnson City 10:00 am
March 26	Garden Seminar at Mize, Gray 10:00 am
April 9	Garden Seminar at Mize, Johnson City 10:00 am