

Official Publication



Master Gardener Thymes

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Nina Hedrick and Gwyn Duncan accepting the ceremonial shovel

NETMGA PROJECTS WIN STATE AWARDS

Contributors include Barbara Voigt, Gwyn Duncan and Chris Ramsey

Congratulations to four local MG groups or individuals who recently won "Search for Excellence Awards" from the University of Tennessee Extension Service. The awards were presented to The Braille Trail and Boundless Playground, to the Gardens at Johnson City Medical Center, to the 2010 Master Gardener Intern Class, and to Doug Hilton. Ceremonial Shovels were presented to the winning groups at Tennessee MG Winter School in Murfreesboro on Feb. 25, 2011.

The Braille Trail and Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park received a first place award in the category of Special Needs. Master Gardeners have worked in conjunction with other civic organizations to create a woodland path with native plants that can be enjoyed by children and adults of all abilities. Plants are clearly labeled with easy to read signs. There is also a large sign with a map containing pictures and location of the plants as well as Braille signage. The trail follows the theme of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* with various scenes from the book depicted along the way.

This project continues to develop. A tree house for use by children of all abilities was dedicated in 2010. Work is scheduled to start soon on an amphitheatre which will incorporate rain gardens and other drainage techniques into its design.

Current Braille Trail volunteers include Gwyn Duncan, Nina Hedrick, Joy Moore, Harold Burns, Linda Carr, Jerry Cunningham, Candy Davis, Teri Duffield, Bill Grigsby, Jeanie Musson and Natu Patel. Other MGs are invited to join the group and assist in any aspect of the project.

The Gardens at the Johnson City Medical Center received a first place award in the category of Community Service. Master Gardeners have worked hard to rejuvenate old gardens and to create new ones. The goal of the project is to provide peaceful, soothing natural areas for the benefit of patients, visitors and staff.

Master gardeners who volunteer at the Med Center include Regina Abbott, Heather Bagnell, John Barrett, Johnda Burdette, Carol Collins, Van Gambrel, Penny Hahne, Jim Hayes, Sandra Hayes, Vivian Hayward, Billie Hoover, Jack Libby, Penny Rutledge, Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Jim Wilson, BB Woods and Mary Zamiska.

The Fall 2010 Master Gardener Intern Class also received a ceremonial shovel. This group worked tirelessly previewing and editing the materials for the new MG handbook. They also gave feedback on the material to be included.

Doug Hilton was honored for his service on the Tennessee Master Gardener Advocacy Board. Doug served on this statewide board for three years along with eight other MGs, three Extension Agents, and the State Master Gardener Coordinator. The board works with the state coordinator in implementing statewide MG functions including the Annual MG Winterschool. The group connects the local MG groups across the state to the state MG office.



Many Johnson City Medical Center team members and their ceremonial shovel.

COME THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE

On Saturday, May 28nd the Tuesday Garden Club and Schubert Club of Jonesborough will be hosting their annual garden gala. The theme for this year's gala is: Birds, Blooms or Butterflies: Planting with a purpose. Once again visitors will be invited through the garden gate to tour the private gardens of some of Jonesborough's historic homes, visiting public gardens along the way.



In addition, a Garden Marketplace will be held at the International Storytelling Center. (opening at 9:00 am.) and Gardening Seminars will be held at the Visitors Center. The seminars begin at 9:15 am and cost \$5.00 for all three.

Garden tours will be held from 12:30 to 5:00 and Tea will be served from 1:00 to 4:00. Tickets for the tour and tea are \$12 in advance and \$15 at door. Advance tickets are available at jonesboroughtn.org or call 423.753.1010. For more information call Shirley Lilly 423.926.8287

NETMGA members are asked to help with this event by serving as hosts in the gardens. Shifts run from 12:30 - 2:45 or 2:45 - 5:00. This is a very enjoyable way to see the gardens and to earn volunteer hours. For more volunteer

information, contact Joletta Woodward at [423-282-3234](tel:423-282-3234) or myjoybird@hotmail.com

SHARE YOUR GARDENING KNOWLEDGE

Submitted by Sam Jones

MGs working with The Carver Community Garden in Johnson City will be teaching 15 people how to garden on Saturday morning, May 7th. All MGs are invited to come and assist by showing these new gardeners how to plant vegetable seeds and transplants. The goal is to have a one-to-one experience for each person. Spacing and depth requirements will be listed on the back of the seed packets, but it's always lots more fun and less stressful if the gardeners have someone to whisper in their ear when they're learning new skills.

The group will meet at 9 AM that morning and should be finished by noon. MGs are asked to come for 15 minutes or the whole morning. This is a great way to earn volunteer time and to truly help someone learn how to garden. Many of the gardeners are hoping to contribute to their family's low budgets with the food they grow this year so this is good work for all involved.

Please RSVP Sam Jones at simpleintn@yahoo.com. Or call 423 -773-3204. Bring extra kneeling pads, rakes, hoes or trowels if you can. Be sure to mark them with your name or initials.



A Day of Service at Carver in April which saw about 20 young volunteers and their parents participate in planting flowers, weeding and removing rocks and debris from the newly tilled beds

Water-Wise Demonstration Project Needs Volunteers

By Joy Stewart

A group of NE Tennessee and Washington County Virginia master gardeners started the Water-Wise Landscaping Demonstration Project last spring at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray. Our goal is to showcase ways that homeowners can landscape their yards to reduce stormwater runoff and help protect our waters. We are installing two rain gardens, two rain barrels, permeable pavers, and an educational kiosk with interpretive signs and brochures. Once the installations are complete, we also plan on offering an annual series of workshops on how to install these features.

Last year we completed the rain gardens and rain barrels. Now we are ready to begin work on the kiosk, signs, and permeable pavers. We are looking for more volunteers to help staff our group and we would particularly appreciate volunteers with construction skills. Fund raising has been difficult in this tight economy and we have not been able to raise sufficient funds to hire a contractor. So whether you want to dig in the dirt, lay pavers, or use a hammer, we would love to have your help. If you are interested, please call Joy Stewart at 423 573-2376.

Visit Joy's Garden

MGS are invited to join members of the Southern Appalachian Plant Society on Thursday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. to tour the amazing garden of Joy Stewart. Visitors will see a wide array of plants (especially natives) and many landscape techniques. Joy uses rain gardens, rain barrels, and has a green roof under construction. Please carpool if possible, since parking will be on the street in this residential neighborhood. Joy's address is 449 Springfield Drive, Bristol, TN. For more information, e-mail jinmoore@embargmail.com or call 423-348-6572.

DISCOVER THE SECRET LIFE OF DRAGONFLIES

Did you know that dragon flies are excellent indicators of the health of our natural surroundings? Come to Warrior's Path State Park in Kingsport on Saturday, June 18 and learn fascinating facts about these intriguing winged creatures. Two speakers, Richard Connors, TN State Parks Biologist and Larry Everett, TDEC Aquatic Biologist will present a fun and informative program from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Plan on spending a warm, summer day observing these amazing insects. The instructors will explain how to study dragonflies "at home" in their habitats and how to record observations with photographs.

The event is free but participants must pre-register to insure a spot. Call 423-239-6786 or e-mail Marty.Silver@tn.gov to pre-register.





Chris' Corner

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Spring is sure moving at a record pace. MGs have sure had plenty of opportunities for ACT hours and CEUs with all of the projects, festivals, workshops, and meetings.

I encourage each MG to plug in to some project somewhere. You can get involved by digging, planting, pruning, fertilizing, watering, mulching, maintaining, leading, teaching, researching, writing, coordinating, organizing, communicating, planning, and marketing. I

know I missed something! The point is get out there and get involved.

By committing to a project, you'll expand your knowledge of plant material, NETMGA, contribute to the community and meet someone new.

The NETMGA board is doing a fantastic job of keeping members informed about current opportunities via email. The website, netmga.net, is also a great resource for learning more about area projects.

Don't wait until the December 31 deadline! Get those hours on the website or turn the hours in on the paper form as soon as you can. Please refer to the "FAQ and Other Important Information" document which was recently emailed to members.

BY THE BOARD

By Blenda Anderson, NETMGA President

Spring has sprung! As I sit here trying to keep warm (Mother Nature is playing hide and seek with us).

The NETMGA Board of Directors met on Monday, March 14th and our next meeting is Monday, May 9th. We always have lively meetings and this one didn't disappoint. Come by for the next one if you can.

Johnny Suthers has been very busy taking in the project sites and updating our Project List. Rough draft was given out at the April Meeting and I will send out the updated table in an email.

I thought the NETMGA Board planned to keep me busy but I didn't know the half of it! As an association....YOU ROCK! The membership has added three new projects and the emails to line up workers have us working overtime.

Our April meeting was wonderful but attendees were sparse (Mother Nature's storms keep you home maybe?). Shirlene Booker gave a great presentation on herbs and a handout with some recipes to try. She explained when to add what herbs during cooking times. She was really on her game even though she was sick! We really appreciate her taking time to come by and hope to see her around again.

Did I see you at the April meeting, if not, I hope to see you at our next meeting on Monday, June 6th. More from the Board later.





SEARCHING FOR SEDUMS

By Joy Stewart

I am looking for donors who have spare sun-loving sedums that they want to share. My husband and I are putting an ecoroof on our 15' by 13' garden shed. This is a first for us, and we are learning the hard way about the intricacies of ecoroofs! It seems to be more involved and costly than I expected, but the learning is fun too.

We have found a local handyman/contractor who is interested in learning along with us and will be doing the construction portion. So we have all been studying diagrams and building plans together. I figure we can muddle through this together and hopefully come out with a really nice ecoroof.

Ecoroofs instructions call for 2-3 plant plugs per square foot, which means we need between 300 and 500 plugs! So I would love to have any extras that anyone has to give away, and I will be glad to pick them up. We hope to have the roof done and ready to plant by the end of May.

If we can help anyone else who is thinking about installing a green roof or ecoroof, please feel free to contact me. We will be glad to share information and advice. Joy Stewart 423 573-2376

joylarry@btes.tv

GARDENERS ARE GROWING YOUNGER

Submitted by Hugh Conlon

In a surprising trend, the younger generations are gardening in numbers similar to other age groups, according to a survey commissioned by Garden Writers Association (GWA), conducted in December 2010 and January 2011.



A sneak peek from GWA's recent report says...

From earlier surveys, it was found that 66 percent of the entire U.S. population has some form of lawn or garden. In the most recent survey, when the under-40s were asked if they grow or take care of plants, 64 percent indicated "yes." Those in the 25-40 age bracket had the same response as the average of the entire population (66 percent). No longer should we assume that Generation Y and Z are bypassing gardening until they reach middle age or older. The survey shows that those in the 25-40 age group are just as engaged in gardening as older folks.

Other findings of note:

When searching for gardening information, the digital generation doesn't turn first to smartphones. First choice, with an astounding 87 percent response, is to go to a network of friends and neighbors for answers. The second choice among under-40s for gardening information is books (69 percent). Going directly to a gardening retailer or taking a class (63 percent) is the third-most popular way under-40s are finding the information they need.

Most of the under-40s surveyed indicated they use organic products sometimes (46%), and 39% indicated they do not use organic products. Little difference appeared between the 18-24 and 25-40 age groups.



LEARN ABOUT HARDSCAPING

Plan now to attend the next NETMGA meeting on June 9th at Gray. The guest speaker is Jerrod Reed of Premier Landscapes Inc. Jerrod will speak on lawn care and the use of hardscapes in the lawn. Fellowship starts at 6:00 with the meeting beginning at 6:30. There will be a "Minute to Share" for folks who have a good gardening tip or two. For extra fun door prizes will be awarded. Guests are welcome.

REPORTERS WANTED!!

Do you ever wish that you could earn an hour or two of volunteer time working at home? Consider becoming a reporter for the MG Thymes. Reporters can submit their own ideas for articles or can work on assignments from the editor. Much of the work can be done on the phone or through e-mail. It's a fun, creative way to contribute to NETMGA. We're also looking for photographers to document MG projects. If you are interested in joining the MGThymes staff, please contact Jean Green at gardener-green@gmail.com or call 423-652-1756.

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to all the MGs who worked at the first annual *From the Roots Up* Arbor Day event at the Appalachian Fairgrounds. Doug Hilton says he was very pleased with the overall turnout for the event. He adds that the Power Board, one of the main sponsors, was also very pleased. This new event is off to a great start!

RELIVING THE PAST – FOR THOSE IN THE PRESENT

By Harold Burns



Master Gardeners Joy Moore and Sue Cadwallader, work (volunteer) at Exchange Place to show modern day students the art of candle making, reason for having a smokehouse, and where the supplies come from to make candles. Their dress is of the 1850 era. Many different schools have bussed students to enjoy some time on an 1850 era farm. They get to see games from that time period, learn what "hoecakes" are, some history of the farm, and see the school of that time period. It actually takes about 9 volunteers to present these four, 45 minute sessions.

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2011 DATES TO WATCH

Submitted by Jane Mullins

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|----------------|---|
| Apr 30- May 1 | Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale –Sat. 10 -5 Sun 12noon - 5 |
| May 1 | Netherland Inn Weed and Feed 6pm - Bring a covered dish - drinks provided |
| May 1- 2 | NC Arboretum Annual Rhododendron Show |
| May 4 | NC Arboretum Adult Field Trip - Museum of the Cherokee Indians |
| May 7 | Spring Time in Haynesville:1861 Beginning of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (150 years) Tipton-Haynes |
| May 7 | Volunteer Gardening Day at Carver Community Garden in Johnson City |
| May 9 | NETMGA Board Meeting |
| May 11 | NC Arboretum Adult Field Trip - Gardens of Winston-Salem |
| May 14 | NC Arboretum Carolina Dahlia and Chrysanthemum Society, Dahlia Tubers and Mum Cuttings Sale |
| May 15 | Festival of Flowers Ends at Biltmore |
| May 19 | MGs invited to tour Gardens at Joy Stewart's home, Bristol |
| May 21 | Exchange Place - Kristen, An American Girl Day of Discovery 2:00 - 4:00pm
Call for information and participants must pre-register at 423-288-6071 . |
| May 28 | Garden Gala at historic Jonesborough |
| May 28 -29 | Rose Exhibition NC Arboretum by the Asheville-Blue Ridge Rose Society |
| June - July | Summer Apprentice Day Camp at Rocky Mount Living History Museum |
| June 4-5 | Sycamore Shoals State Park 21 st Annual Native American Festival |
| June 6 | NETMGA Meeting - Speaker- Jerrod Reed Premier Landscapes Inc. |
| Jun 13- Jul 22 | Summer Past History Program -Children Age 6-12, Tipton- Haynes |
| June 18 | Annual Dragon Fly Day Warriors Path State Park 10-4 with Richard Connors, TN State Park Biologist and Larry Evertt, TDEC Aquatic Biologist |
| June 18-19 | 65 th Annual Rhododendron Festival Roan Mountain State Park |
| June 18 | Daylily Show NC Arboretum Sponsored by WNC Daylily Club |