



Master Gardener Thymes

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 4

JULY/ AUG 2011

FIRST ANNUAL ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION HELD

By Jane Mullins

Master Gardener Doug Hilton and Mr. Bill Hunt from the Johnson City Power Board organized the first annual Arbor Day Celebration held April 22-23 at the Appalachian Fair Grounds in Gray, TN. Many Master Gardeners, interns and community members participated in planning and staffing the activities.



Master Gardener Ben Hunter shares his knowledge.

Pike Electric Company demonstrated the conflict that occurs when people, animals and trees come in contact with power lines. Other events included workshops on Proper Tree Planting, a 5-K Run Walk (Sponsored by We Run Events with Hank Brown), a Miss Arbor Day Pageant, Plant and Food Vendors, and a Chain Saw Artist, Donna Narry of Wood Artist Creations. There were also free inflatables for the children, a Dunk Tank, a Skillet Toss, an Easter Egg Hunt and a free craft table.



Miss Arbor Day 2011 is Victoria Ramey, 20 year old ETSU student from Gray.

Event sponsors included Johnson City Power Board, NETMGA, Mr. Hank Brown with "We Run Events", Atlanta Bread, Earth Fare Supermarket in Johnson City, Larry's Tire Center, Mr. David Yates from Laurels Nursery, Fleet Feet, Mahoney's, Action Athletics, Mr. Micheal Bolton from Lynn Mountain Nursery in Elizabethton, Mr. David Guinn, The Appalachian Fair Grounds Staff and Trustees.



A Big Thank You goes to all those Master Gardeners who helped with this event and to all the vendors who participated.



SHOW OFF YOUR GARDEN!

By Gail Shaver



The August 1st meeting will be a first for NETMGA! The program will be on flowers and flower gardens, but the real fun will be in "showing off". We are having a flower show complete with judges and prizes. Everyone who wants to participate should bring a cutting, a fresh arrangement, or a framed picture of something in the garden that just outdid itself. For example, bring a picture of a water garden, rain garden or a flower bed that is too pretty to go unnoticed. Prizes will be awarded for each category with a grand prize overall. All entries should be new plants or borders from this growing year. All attendees are reminded to wear name tags. Treats are given for those who wear their tags. This is a very helpful way to get to know each other better. Also this would be a great time to bring something from the garden to share for refreshments. Food and fellowship start at 6:00 with the meeting and program at 6:30. The meeting will be held at the Appalachian Fairgrounds on August 1, 2011.



GET SET FOR FALL NETMGA CLASSES

The fall series of Master Gardener Classes will run from Sept. 13 to Nov. 8, 2011. Most classes will meet at The Appalachian Fairgrounds on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 12:00. There are four classes that will be held off site. The lectures will cover a wide range of topics, including: soils, lawn and turf, water management, Botany, plant pathology and entomology, herbs, vegetables, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, propagation, pest management and pesticides.

Although the classes are designed for the new class of Master Gardeners, interns and other MGs are welcome to attend any classes of their choice. This is an excellent way to earn CEUs. In order to ensure full enrollment, MGs are asked to encourage interested people to sign up for the classes. Please call Chris Ramsey at 423-279-2723 to place a name on the mailing list. The complete schedule of class topics, times and

MG Alliance Meeting in Knoxville

The East Tennessee Master Gardener Alliance is holding its annual meeting on Saturday, July 16, 2011 from 9:30 to 2:30 at the UT Gardens Greenhouse classroom. Attendees will review the latest plant trials and best landscaping techniques in the UT gardens. The meeting is designed for local MG presidents, vice-presidents or their designees and members of the Advocacy Board.

Items to be discussed include:

- Topics to present at Winter School to promote attendance;
- How MG programs can become a more valuable asset to each county in a time of budget cuts;
- The future of the state Master Gardener Program.

Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact Chris Ramsey at 423-279-2723. Registration deadline is July 5, 2011.

Find the “Natives” at Warrior’s Path



© 2001 Eleanor Saulys

Foamflower *Tiarella cordifolia*

Master Gardeners Nina Hedrick and Joy Moore will present a program on "Woodland Natives at Warrior's Path State Park" Thursday, July 14. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. with a tour of the native plants at Darryl's Dream playground at WPSP. Everyone will meet at the picnic shelter to begin the tour.

Since this is primarily a wooded area, many of the plants are spring blooming, but guests will enjoy seeing the form, foliage, and berries forming. Some of the many nice specimens that will be pointed out are ninebark, spicebush, heart's a bustin', serviceberry, foamflower, Allegheny spurge and seersucker sedge.

A slide presentation will follow at 7:30 p.m. at the Duck Island recreation building, with close-ups of blooms and foliage of plants native to the park and pointers on growing these local gems in your own garden.

ATTEND “ Farm Fest” FOR OLD- FASIONED FUN

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, July 17, from 2-5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm on Orebank Road in Kingsport. Sponsored by Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Homes and Exchange Place, Farm Fest celebrates the pleasures of country life.

Step back into the nineteenth century and enjoy fresh summer food like watermelon and corn on the cob. Join in activities from bygone days like sack races, hayrides, and cakewalks. Listen to music on traditional instruments, pet the farm animals, and try your hand at old time crafts like stenciling, tin punch, and carding wool. Small children will enjoy washing clothes on the washboard and jumping in the haystack.

A shuttle bus will run from Mountain View United Methodist Church to Farm Fest from 1:45 to 5:30 p.m. to ease parking congestion. This free event is part of Kingsport Fun Fest, and no ticket is required. For more information call [423-288-6071](tel:423-288-6071).

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help with plant and garden related children's activities and teaching farm "chores". To volunteer contact Joy Moore at 348-6572 or jnjmoore@embarqmail.com.



Chris' Corner

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

Sure has been a challenging season for vegetable gardeners. Cool, wet weather in early May with an abrupt change to extreme hot and droughty weather in late May and early June. These conditions are difficult at best for our warm-season vegetables.

We're half way through 2011. I hope you're finding plenty of opportunities for MG hours. Call me if need ideas on a project to plug into. Remember you should get 50% of your required hours from NETMGA sanctioned projects. This includes leadership and committee positions with NETMGA and hours spent at area county extension offices assisting with programs.

Please report your hours periodically throughout the year. This will help us to better plan as we progress toward the reporting deadline of December 31, 2011. The hours report forms may be submitted to either the Certification Officer or to my office. If you have any questions, give me a call at 423-646-9043.

The Fall MG Classes will be held at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Bldg 1 with the exception of four offsite classes. The class will meet on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The program will begin on September 13 and end on November 8. Please promote the class in your community. They may call me to put their name and address on our mailing list. Program details and an application will be mailed in early July. The Fall MG classes are great for the 8 hours of required CEUs.

Bring the "Big Boys" to HOMEGROWN TOMATO FEST VII

The Seventh Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, August 13, 2011, from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street in Kingsport. This celebration of the juicy red fruit features tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, cooking demonstrations, tomato-growing advice, activities for kids, and fun for the whole family.

Tomato lovers are invited to enter the Best Salsa Contest and to bring tomatoes to compete in the following categories: Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre, and Best Dressed. Admission is free and there are no entry fees. Entry forms may be downloaded from the SAPS website, www.saps.us, or picked up at Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) or Ward's Feed Store. Entries will be accepted from 8 - 9 am for all contests, and winners will be announced at 10 a.m. To volunteer to help (with slicing tomatoes, salsa booth, children's activities, etc.), call Dennis Marshall at 288-3675 or dmarshall@chartertn.net

Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and Downtown Kingsport Association.



VENTURE INTO VIRGINIA FOR FASCINATING FARM TOURS

Submitted by Brenda Warner



One advantage of living close to a state line is being able to enjoy another entire set of programs and tours. Southwest Virginia is home to Appalachian Sustainable Development, an organization that promotes local farming. This summer ASD is offering tours of some of these farms so that the public can learn more about the people and products of the region. All of the tours are free.

Thursday July 7 @ 4:00 PM

Visit the home of long-time MG favorite Dr. Richard Moyer and see a little bit of everything! Dr. Moyer, his wife and children have recreated the traditional diversified mountain farm in southwest Virginia. Visitors will see fresh produce, free range poultry, maple syrup, rotational grazing, goat milk soaps, seed saving, dairy cows, fresh herbs, ducks and sorghum.

Directions: Go through Hansonville toward Lebanon on Hwy 19. Go 1/2 mile then turn left onto Rd. 614 (Crossroads). Go 4-5 miles, reaching a 'T' at Hwy 71. Turn right, then an immediate left, staying on 614. This is now Carterton Rd. Go ~3 miles on Carterton Rd, taking the first left onto 640, Reeds Valley Rd. Go 1.5 miles, first large, old farmhouse on left. Hayfield and hoophouse are visible from the road. From Castlewood: Turn at Banners Corner toward Castlewood High School and the Cannery. Go several miles, down a steep hill, turning left onto Trout Farm Rd. This merges into Red Oak Ridge Rd. Take the first right, onto Reeds Valley Rd. Go 4 miles and it's on the right. 3808 Reeds Valley Rd. Castlewood, VA 24224

Monday, July 18 @ 4:00 p.m.

The Britton Family has been raising fresh, healthy produce on their Dryden, VA land for years – sharing the harvest with neighbors and local buyers. In 2005, John and his brother Jim began raising certified organic produce for the Appalachian Harvest network and the farm is still a success. Today, John works with the Appalachian Harvest growers group to get them certified, train them on organic practices, and help them create a management plan for their farm. Come see how he does it and bring your organic growing questions!

Directions: From Hwy 23 at Duffield red light turn left. Turn right on to hwy 421. Follow hwy 421, then at the red light in Pennington Gap, turn in the right turn lane towards Dryden. Go approx. 3.5 miles. After crossing the bridge turn right onto 630 Big Hill Rd. Continue 1 mile and look for a big red barn on the right, then turn right onto Fox Drive. Continue to the right and farm beside the barn. From Big Stone Gap, turn onto West Alt. 58 towards Dryden. Follow for approx. 18 miles. In Dryden, turn left onto 630 Big Hill Rd., then follow the same route as above. 269 James Britton Drive Pennington Gap, VA 24277

Continued on next page

VENTURE INTO VIRGINIA continued...

Saturday, July 23 @ 2:00 p.m.

This tour will highlight two farms: The Templeton Family Farm which raises chickens both for meat and for eggs and cares for a small herd of Jersey cows. Michael Templeton also coordinates the activities of the Appalachian Farm to Family Cooperative (AFFC). Sweet Grass Farm is the home to the Berry family, where they operate a dairy farm and raise grass-finished beef for AFFC and to sell at the Abingdon Farmers Market.

The tours will finish with a barbeque supper (with Sweet Grass beef and Templeton Family Farm chicken) at Sweet Grass Farm. There is a \$5.00 per person charge to help cover the costs of the meal. Please register in advance with ASD (276- 623-1121 if you plan to eat. A group is meeting at 1:40 p.m. at the BP gas station off of exit 14 (I-81) to follow or carpool.



Directions to Templeton Family Farm: Take exit 14 off of I-81 and turn away from Abingdon, towards Bristol, south on Old Jonesborough Road. Pass the Olde Farm and look for Rt. 666 (Mock Knob Road) on your left. Turn onto Mock Knob Road. Go up and over the knob. Watch for the Central Baptist Church on your left and an old brick silo on your right. Turn right just before the silo. 24526 Mock Knob Road Abingdon, VA 24211

Monday, August 15 @ 4:00 p.m.

The Lyttle Farm of Copper Ridge has been in Jim Lyttle's family for over 100 years. Today, Jim, Sherry and Shiloh Lyttle raise "hair" sheep, fresh produce, blueberries and some of the finest honey to be found in these mountains! Come prepared to join (or just enjoy!) the discussion about the future of the family farm! The tour will also include a seed growing demonstration for Southern Exposure Seed Company, which is seeking contacts with more growers.

Directions: From Abingdon take Route 19 North 12.3 miles to intersection of Route 58A at Hansonville. Turn left on Route 58A and go 9.4 miles to top of Ridge and turn left on Copper Ridge Road. Go 2.2 miles to farm on left. Landmarks to look for are while on 58A after passing Copper Creek Elementary on the left you will proceed up the ridge and turn onto Copper Ridge at the top. While on Copper Ridge Road you need to watch for a tan barn with a green roof on the left with a Virginia Century Farm Sign just past it. 1660 Copper Ridge Rd. Castlewood, VA 24224

DATES TO WATCH

JULY

- 1 - 3 Summer Educational Activities at Warriors Path Park
 7 Dr. Richard Moyers' Farm Tour
 7 NC Arboretum Workshop - Summer Container Gardening
 9 Deadline for Extended Early Registration for IMGC in Charleston, WV
 9-10 NC Arboretum 5th Annual Bamboo Festival
 14 *Woodland Natives* at Warriors Path by MG's Nina Hedrick and Joy Moore
 15 - 23 Kingsport Fun Fest
 16 NC Arboretum Focus on Flowers Going Green in the Garden
 17 Hamlett Dobson Farm Fest Exchange Place 2-5 pm
 Exchange Place is open Saturdays and Sundays May – October
 18 Britton Family Farm Tour
 22 -24 NC Herb Association's Wild Herb Weekend at Valle Cruis Conference Center, Valle Cruis, NC
 23 Templeton and Berry Farm Tours
 23 through August 7 Virginia Highlands Festival Abingdon, VA
 23 Whitetop Mountain Wildflower Hike 12:00 - 3:00
 23 Appalachian Farm to Family Co-op Farm Tour 2 - 5 pm Must pre-register.
 25 From Field to Table Event at the Harvest Table in Meadowview, VA
 (5:00 to 6:45 and 7:00 to 8:45)
 30 Mini-Conference on Native Plants in the Landscape Western Carolina University
www.wcu.edu/5033.asp
 31 A Stroll Through the Vineyard 10 am to 3 pm Abingdon Vineyard and Winery
 (Contact Judith Foster at jf@netscape.com)

AUGUST

- 1 NETMGA Meeting and Flower Show 6:00 PM
 2 Stream Pollution Workshop 10am Toole's Creek at Historic White's Mill Abingdon
 (Presented by Tony Payne Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.)
 3 Forest Ecology Hike to the Channels 9:00am to 4:00pm Meet at Hayters Gap
 Community Center
 6 Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk 11:00- 2:00 Settlers Museum of Southwest VA in
 Adkins, VA
 6 If You Build It They Will Come! 10am - 2pm Sugar Hollow Park, Bristol, VA (Tour
 focus on rain gardens, stream restoration and no-mow zones in the park.)
 6 9th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count 9am and 1pm Sycamore Shoals (Rain Date
 August 13)
 13 SAPS Homegrown Tomato Fest at the Kingsport Farmers Market
 15 Lyttle Farm Tour
 22-27 Appalachian Fair Gray, TN
 24-27 Bristol Race Weekend

2011 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

netmga2009@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT

Blenda Anderson
 423-276-3028

blajaa5755@charter.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Karen Drought
 423-928-0225

mommypurr@aol.com

SECRETARY

Kathy Waldo
 (423) 913-2121

kathywaldo@embarqmail.com

TREASURER

Pat Mazurkiewicz
 423-323-1644

robmazur@chartertn.net

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Angie Droke
 423-578-8281

adroke@chartertn.net

PAST PRESIDENT

Johnny Suthers
 423-323-2202

jchemie@aol.com

2011 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP

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

PROJECTS

Johnny Suthers
 423-323-2202
jchemie@aol.com

HOSPITALITY

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

PUBLICITY

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

2010 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Christine Barger
o773h@hotmail.com

WEBSITE

Carl Voigt
 (423) 467-2013
voigt7@comcast.net

NEWSLETTER

Jean Green (Editor)
 (423) 652-1756
gardenergreen@gmail.com

Junella McClellan (Layout Design)
 (423) 534-8097
j.mcclellan@hotmail.com



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



LOVE TREES?

Visit the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council web site to learn about landmark, heritage, or historic trees throughout the state. A different tree is highlighted every month. This web site includes much more fascinating information about Tennessee trees and forests. Visit them at www.tufc.com.

