

Plan to Visit or Work at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm in Kingsport is a busy place. Not only is it hosting several Holiday events, but it also serves as a site where Master Gardeners can earn volunteer hours while learning about traditional farming and gardening. Read on for the latest happenings at this historic place.



Make Your Own Traditional Christmas Wreath

Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Native Habitat Nursery and Herbarium will demonstrate how to make beautiful holiday wreaths on Thursday, December 1, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Exchange Place. Workshop participants will craft their own unique holiday decoration from the freshest evergreens with inspiration and guidance from Christy. All materials - fresh greenery (holly, magnolia, cedar berries, pine, yew, etc.), cones, dried flowers, wreath form, and wire - will be provided. There will also be a demonstration of how to fashion a kissing ball. Participants are encouraged to bring material from their own gardens to use and to share.



The cost for the day is \$30 (\$25 for SAPS members) and includes all materials and a soup lunch. To reserve your place, mail check, payable to "Exchange Place", to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. Registration is limited to 15 participants. Registration deadline is November 28. Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Proceeds from the workshop go to Exchange Place's restoration efforts. For more information call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail at jinmoore@embarqmail.com.



Celebrate Early at Christmas in the Country

Plan to attend the annual Christmas in the Country Celebration at Exchange Place on Saturday Dec. 3th, from 10:00 -- 4:00. The celebration features the sales of fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, and traditional foods and folk arts, hands-on activities for all ages and demonstrations of winter activities on the mid-19th century farm. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire begins at 4:15 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to register for workshops, call 423-288-6071 or www.exchangeplace.info.

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help staff an area with decorations from nature. To volunteer contact Sue Cadwallader at 288-6071 or cadwallader@embarqmail.com.

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Volunteers to Help with Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair

Exchange Place is seeking Master Gardener volunteers interested in serving on the Garden Fair Committee to help plan and coordinate various parts of the 28th annual Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair on April 28-29, 2012. A core group of Exchange Place volunteers and Master Gardeners are already committed to organizing the Garden Fair, but more are needed to bring new ideas and helping hands to make this the most exciting Garden Fair ever. The committee will begin meeting early in the new year. This is a fun and rewarding opportunity to be a part of the oldest garden fair in the region. Planning and meeting time counts as MG ACT hours too. To volunteer contact Sue Cadwallader at 288-6071 or cadwallader@embarqmail.com.

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Join the Regular MG Team at Exchange Place

A group of dedicated MGs meets weekly during the spring, summer and fall to maintain the grounds and gardens at Exchange Place. These busy folks mow the grass, weed –eat, till, plant , weed and harvest the gardens, and generally keep the grounds looking great all year long. They meet regularly on Mondays and spend about 4 hours beautifying the historic site. If you would like to join these busy folks, contact Ron Russum at 343-9111or Phil Ramey 288-4669.

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SPENDING A DAY AT EXCHANGE PLACE AT EDEN'S RIDGE

The following article was written by MG Sue Stanley who spent a day at the Fall Festival at Exchange Place.

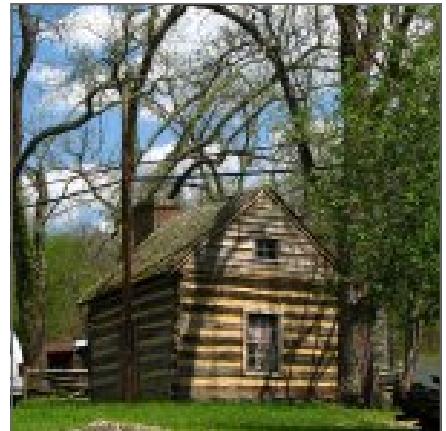
Ever wonder what it might have been like to live on a farm in the 1850s? During the annual Fall Folk Arts Festival held September 24-25, 2011, visitors to Exchange Place Living History Farm in Kingsport were able to experience it firsthand. Exchange place is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a great example of an early Tennessee farm.

Thanks to the many volunteers at Exchange Place, visitors could watch the blacksmith at work, pet the farm animals and walk through the actual buildings which were part of the farm during its early beginnings. There were craftspeople demonstrating their skills at various crafts, such as basket weaving, candle making, grapevine wreath construction and much more. At their booth, several MG volunteers were available to answer gardening questions and hand out information on a variety of garden subjects.

The Master Gardeners also donate their time to help with the planting and upkeep of the Exchange Place garden. They grow a variety of plants that would have been planted during the 1850s in the way a farmer of that era might have grown them. Great care is taken to keep the garden as authentic as possible.

I listened as visitors to the garden asked Master Gardener Phil Ramey questions about how the vegetables were grown and harvested. Phil can really captivate an audience! Not only did he explain how to harvest the asparagus and pick the kale, he told stories about how early farmers protected their gardens from wild animals intent on ruining their crops. It's hard to imagine how difficult it must have been to keep all those animals out of the garden in the 1850s.

Today we still have some of the same challenges. A visit to this wonderful historic farm will make you appreciate all the modern conveniences we have for our gardens today. More information about Exchange Place can be found at their website at www.exchangeplace.info/.



Learn How To Grow Fruits and Nuts

Dr. David Lockwood will present a talk on "Fruits and Nuts in the Home Garden" on November 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Johnson City Power Board. Dr. Lockwood will use a power point presentation to show what kinds of fruits and nuts are most suitable for gardeners in Northeast Tennessee.

Dr. Lockwood earned his Ph.D. from UGA and joined the faculty of the University of TN Plant and Soil Sciences in 1973. He currently has split faculty appointments, to the University of Georgia, as well as the University of Tennessee, where he serves as Extension Fruit and Nut Crops Specialist. He has travelled and lectured extensively throughout the United States as well as in many foreign countries (France, Italy, Spain, etc) and is recognized as a grape specialist and wine connoisseur.

The meeting is sponsored by SAPS and is free and open to the public. Guests are welcome.



Chris' Corner

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

How time flies when you're having fun! Where did 2011 go? Hopefully, you are up to date on getting your volunteer hours entered or least have it on your "radar". Please enter all of your hours by December 31, 2011. Hopefully, you are able to enter your hours online, but if not just turn in your hours on the blue report form. If you need assistance with your login information,

please let me know by calling 423-646-9043 or emailing me at chris.ramsey@utk.edu.

The entry of your hours is a very important part of the justification process of the UT Extension Master Gardener Program. When you submit your volunteer hours, they are compiled with the hours from other MGs in the area. This total is then compiled with the total hours of other MG groups statewide. This total number of hours then goes into reports to USDA, our state representatives and senators, and other reports that justify the existence of the Master Gardener Program. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Register Now for the Tennessee Horticulture Exposition

All North-east Tennessee Master Gardeners are welcome to the Tennessee Horticulture Exposition on January 27-28, 2012 in Nashville. The exposition is a gathering of the state's Flower Growers Association, Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, Farm Wine Growers Alliance, Farmers' Markets and Agritourism. The purpose of the gathering is to share a trade show of common vendors and to offer presentations and break-out sessions for each association. The fee is \$50.00 per person. Registration and program information is available at the official web site: <http://www.tnthe.com>.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like.....

..... time for the Sullivan County 4-H program to sell Christmas Trees.

If you would like to support the organization by purchasing a beautiful tree, please contact Walter Malone at 423-279-2723. All proceeds help the Sullivan County 4-H program.



Blending Summer Flowers into Fall

Taken from *Southern Living Magazine*

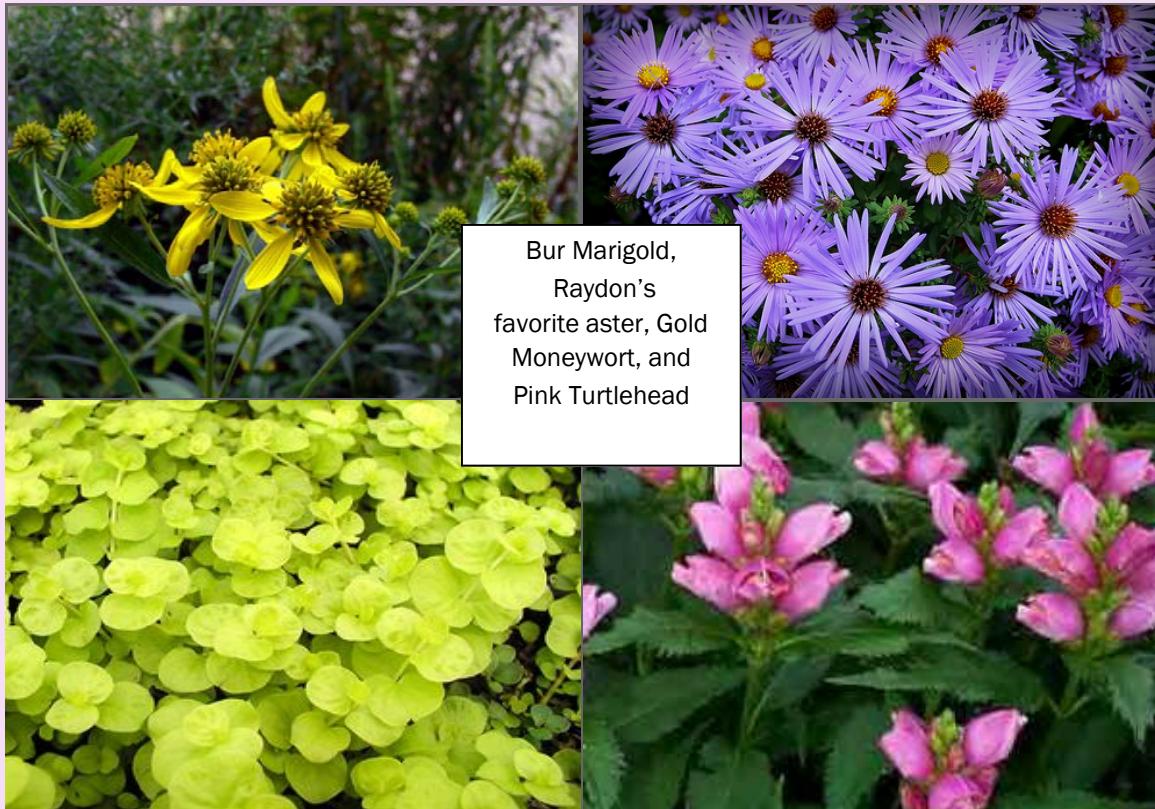
As summer transitions into fall, do your flower beds and borders begin to lose some of their vibrancy? Do brown, tan and rust become the dominating colors? Try planting some of flowers listed below to help make a more colorful transition from summer to fall in southern flower beds. The ones with a star are perennials and may still be planted this fall. All others are annuals and should be planted next spring as soon as the danger of frost is past.

Gold to yellow:

- *Bur Marigold (*Bidens Polylepis*) - 3" x 3" – full sun
- *Maximillian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximilliani*) – 9" x 2.5' – full sun
- *Giant pale yellow sunflower – (*Helianthus gigantius*) – 9' x 5' – full sun
- *Yellow Lantana – (*Lantana camara*) – 1' x 3' – full sun
- *Gold moneywort – (*Lysimachia nummularia aurea*) – 1" – 1.5" – full sun/part shade
- *Firework Goldenrod – (*Solidago rugosa*) – 4' x 4" – full sun

Purple to pink:

- *New England Aster – (*Aster novae-angliae*) – 3' x 4' – full sun
- *Raydon's favorite aster – (*Aster oblongifolius angustatus*) – 3' x 2' – full sun
- *Pink turtlehead- (*Chelone lyonii*) – 3' x 3' – full sun/part shade
- *Ageratum – (*Eupatorium coelestinum*) – 2' x 4' – full sun/part shade
- *Mexican sage brush – (*Salvia leucantha*) – 3' x 3' – full sun



Dates to Note

NOVEMBER 2011

- 11/2 NC Arboretum Wee Naturalist Dancing Leaves
11/5 NC Arboretum Backyard Beekeeping for Beginners
11/9 NC Arboretum Native Plants for Fall Color
11/11 Historic Rocky Mount Veteran's Day Event
11/11 to 11/13 Sycamore Shoals Christmas Craft Show
11/11 to 11/12 Jonesborough Holiday Craft Show and Fall Thistle Fest
11/12 Roan Mountain State Park Old Time Yule Event
11/12 Natural Tunnel State Park Corn Shuck Wreath Workshop by Gaynelle Marshall . Lodge Cost \$30.00 - Call 276-940-1643
11/14 MG Board Meeting @ Gray Fairgrounds 6-8 pm
11/17 7:00 pm JC Power Board SAPS Meeting - Guests Welcome
Program Small Fruits and Nuts for the Home Garden
Speaker: Dr. David Lockwood UT Extension Specialist Small Fruits and Nuts
11/19 NC Arboretum Advanced Lichens
11/19 to 20 Harvest Celebrations and Militia Muster at Fort Watauga

DECEMBER 2011

- 12/1 Christmas Wreath Making Workshop with Christy Shivell – Exchange Place
12/1 to 1/4 Winterfest Christmas Tree Exhibit & Art Sale at Sycamore Shoals
12/3 Warriors Path State Park Adopt a Tree Event 10 am to 12 noon Help Plant Trees
You will receive a free tree for everyone you plant. Come early!!!
12/3 Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site Visions of Christmas 1861 Celebration
12/2 - 3 Christmas in the Country 2011 Exchange Place 10-4, Yule Log Ceremony at 4 pm
12/2 - 3 Candlelight Christmas at Historic Rocky Mount
Tours begin at 4:30 - Last Tour Starts at 8:00p.m.
12/2 - 3 Christmas at Carter Mansion 6-9 pm
12/5 NETMGA Meeting @ Gray Fairgrounds Farm and Home Building 6:00 p.m.
12/7 NC Arboretum Plants with Winter Interest
12/9 - 10 Candlelight Christmas at Historic Rocky Mount
12/9 - 11 Netherland Inn 1818 Christmas Party (The Inn is open for tours)
12/10 Christmas Centerpiece Workshops at Aunt Willie's Wildflowers
Cost - \$55.00 To register e-mail auntwillie@embarqmail.com
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SEND IN YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES

It seems that gardening and good cooking go hand-in-hand. Many of our Master Gardeners have brought delicious foods to our meetings and gatherings. Perhaps they are so delicious because many of the ingredients are home-grown! If you have a particularly "yummy" recipe using garden fresh ingredients, please send it to Jane Mullins at ajtmul35@yahoo.com. We'll start publishing them in the next Thymes.



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2011 Master Gardener Class:

Chris Ramsey demonstrates the correct technique for taking a soil sample at left.

Below Instructor Hubert Lambert answers questions about soil at a Master Gardener class in the early fall.



Thanks to the MGs

Doug and Master Gardener Friends,

A big thank you from the Appalachian Fair Board for all you do to make our fair-grounds beautiful and all the educational value for the over 200,000 visitors the week of the fair.

We receive many, many comments throughout the year. Please let everyone know how much we appreciate the hard work.

Sherry Shadden



Join The Gold Leaf Club

By Johnnie Suthers

To become a member of this club, a Tennessee Master Gardener need only enter online reports for 100 hours of volunteer service in a given calendar year by December 31 of the calendar year. For every 100 volunteer hours reported in a given year, that member will be awarded a gold leaf lapel pin symbolizing their significant contribution to the TMG program.

Members reporting 100 - 199 hours will receive one pin and a certificate suitable for framing listing the number of volunteer hours donated and reported by the cut-off date. Members reporting 200 - 299 hours will be awarded two pins and one certificate. So many of our members contribute significant time to the program, we are glad to have this vehicle in place for recognizing them.

Please note that hours reported after the specified cut-off date will not count towards Gold Leaf awards. This is meant to encourage everyone to report their hours in a timely fashion so that the data will be available to UT and TSU by mid-to-late January of any given year for the prior calendar year. County Extension Agents will make every effort to award pins and certificates of recognition by early February so that Master Gardeners may wear their new Gold Leaf pins to Winter School.

For 2011, the Gold Leaf Club pin will be our own leafy-T emblem from Tennessee Master Gardener literature. In subsequent years the pins will be representations of the leaves of the following trees, one for each of the years 2012 - 2015: tulip poplar, golden oak, maple, and redbud.

Tennessee Master Gardeners are an amazing group of remarkably giving persons. We look forward to seeing many gold pins on lapels this coming February when they will be awarded. Please remember that your hours of service become even more valuable when entered online in a timely fashion.



Dear Readers,

After several years of editing the MG Thymes, I plan to step down and pursue some other MG projects. I want to thank all of you who have faithfully sent announcements and articles for each issue. It has truly been a pleasure working with you. A huge thank you goes to Junella McClellan who does the design and layout for each edition. Junella is truly a master at her craft and has been a joy to work with.

Sincerely,
Jean R. Green

Anyone interested in taking over the editor's job is asked to contact Chris Ramsey. It's a great way to stay informed, meet people and earn lots of volunteer hours.



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UT Extension Sullivan County
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<http://netmga.net>
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netmga2009@yahoo.com

2012 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$25 for a couple) and are due by January 31, 2012.

After January 31, 2012, membership dues are \$20 (\$35 for a couple).

Please complete the membership form, make note of any changes to your contact information and include the form with your dues.

Make your check payable to NETMGA and mail to: **Sally Richard**
137 Bentwood Lane
Gray, TN 37615

I Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

County _____ **Phone** _____

E-mail address _____ **Class Year** _____

Please check if you cannot receive the newsletter via e-mail

Please check if you do not want your contact information shared with all members