

December NETMGA meeting

Monday, December 3

at the Johnson City Power Board

RSVP Required by November 12

to any board member or netmga2009@yahoo.com

- 6:00 pm** Sit-Down Dinner
6:30 pm Election of 2013 Officers

Harvest of Hope will present a program. NETMGA project leaders will be there for updates on their projects. Please wear your Master Gardener name tag.

Winter School

The Tennessee Master Gardener Winter School is an annual event for all MG in Tennessee. The dates in 2013 are Thursday and Friday, February 7th and 8th. The two day event is held in the Ag Center in Murfreesboro.

Thursday will be devoted to the education track. Large and small group instruction on current gardening topics and how to teach this content to others will prepare you for when you go back home.

Friday will be devoted to the leadership track. All MGs are leaders; we lead as we teach. Come to Winter School 2013 to hone those leadership skills.

In addition, exhibits will be on display by many county MG groups about some of their activities. A silent auction will be held involving plants and landscaping materials both days. Winter School is a great time to network with other MGs in your region and across Tennessee.

A wine and cheese social on Thursday night will provide even more fun networking opportunities for those staying overnight. Your registration fee includes a goodie bag, snacks, two full days of education in the company of like-minded MGs and lunch on both days.

Come to learn, socialize and have fun!

MASTER GARDENER HOURS REPORTING

Please do not wait until the end of the year to enter your hours. Take a moment to enter your year-to-date hours today on line at <http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/default.asp> . Forms are available on our website <http://netmga.net/>.

Reporting Hours

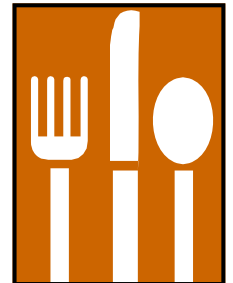
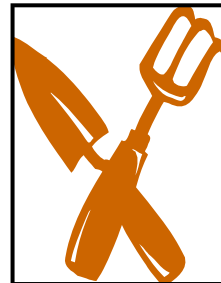
When entering hours, the total hours worked on a particular project for a period--say, a week or a month--are more important than the hours put into a project on each individual day. Thus, if you worked one hour on Tuesday, 1.5 hours on Thursday and two hours on Saturday on a particular project, entering 4.5 hours with Saturday's date is perfectly fine.

When entering hours, include as many details as you can such as mileage, expenses, and face-to-face contacts. The number of face-to-face contacts made on each project is very important, also; make your best guess as to the demographics of the population you served. After entering hours worked, scroll down the page to enter figures for mileage (if any), donation amounts (if any), and face-to-face contacts (if any).

Thank you for making a difference in your community, your state and our world!



GARDEN BITES



The holidays are just around the corner, so in this issue you will find a great recipe for a dip that can do double duty for your celebrations. Enjoy!

PUMPKIN DIP

1 15 oz. can real pumpkin

1 large box Instant vanilla or cheesecake pudding

1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

1 (16 oz.) Cool Whip

Cinnamon Graham Crackers or sticks

Mix all ingredients except graham crackers and store in the refrigerator. Serve with the graham crackers.

PUMPKIN DIP TRIFLE

Pumpkin Dip from above

Cinnamon Graham Crackers or Ginger Snap Cookies

Whipped Topping or Sweetened Whipped Cream

In a trifle bowl, layer cookies or graham crackers, half pumpkin dip, half whipped topping. Then repeat and decorate the top with some of the cookies crumbled. Store in the refrigerator.

Please share some of your recipes for the next issue.

E-mail to ajtmul35@yahoo.com or mail to Jane Mullins, 128 Bill Street, Piney Flats, TN 37686.

LEAVES

As your leaves fall, use your mulching blades and collect the shredded results to use as mulch on your beds or layer into your compost. Layering leaves in the fall and 1" layers of spring grass clippings may give your beds such a boost that you won't need fertilizer in a few years. No need to turn under, just let it sit and provide a haven for your earth worms. A heavy layer of newspapers underneath will give added weed protection and moisture retention.



November SAPS Program



Horticulturist Hugh Conlon will present "Your Indoor Green Space" on Thursday, November 15, at 7 pm at the Farm Bureau Building Auditorium, 1103 Boones Creek Road, Jonesborough 37659. As the outdoor gardening season wanes, plants in the home become the center of attention. Plants can decorate with colorful foliage and beautiful flowers. Hobbyists collect and nurture such favorites as orchids, African violets, begonias, and succulents. Environmentally, plants cleanse the room air and raise room humidity over the dry winter months. There are so many great plants to choose from. Hugh will present his favorites.

Hugh Conlon recently retired from the University of Tennessee where he served 33 counties in East Tennessee as Extension Area Specialist—Ornamental Horticulture. Over the past 35 years Hugh has written hundreds of garden features and articles for magazines and newspapers and has been a frequent lecturer at commercial horticultural and gardening events. Hugh organized the first UT Master Gardener class in the Tri-Cities area in 1994. Currently, he posts articles on his website and garden blog, www.whatgrowswhere.com and continues to speak to Master Gardeners, garden clubs, and trade and professional associations.

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP AT EXCHANGE PLACE

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreath Making Workshop on Thursday, November 29, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. With inspiration and guidance from Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Native Habitat Nursery and Herbarry, participants will create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. All materials - fresh greenery (holly, magnolia, cedar berries, pine, yew, etc.), cones, dried flowers, wreath form, and wire - will be provided.

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 26. 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 jjmoore@embarqmail.com.

WREATH MAKING TOOL AND SUPPLY LIST

A limited number of tools will be available, but, if possible, please bring:

pruning shears

wire cutters

needle-nose pliers

Scissors

3-5 yards of 2" ribbon

"findings" - any special objects, special greenery, etc. that you wish to include in your wreath You are encouraged to bring plant material from your yard to use and share for even more variety.



Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place December 1



Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, December 1, from 10 am - 4:00 pm. Fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, unique folk arts and handcrafts, herbal products and traditional holiday foods will be on sale. The celebration also features hands on activities for all ages and demonstrations of hearthside cooking and baking on the 19th century farmstead. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail begins at 4:15 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 423-288-6071. <http://exchangeplace.info>

NETMGA Projects List 2012

- 1. Appalachian Fairgrounds** Gray
Herb Garden Bill Speed bspeed@lbrtax.biz
Water Wise Gardens Joy Stewart joylarry@btes.tv
 - 2. Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park** Kingsport
Gwyn Duncan 239-0460 geduncan@charter.net
 - 3. Carver Peace Gardens** Johnson City
Sam Jones 349-6119 simpleintn@yahoo.com
 - 4. Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden**
Marcia Vandermause mmvdvm@charter.net
 - 5. Exchange Place Living History Farm** Kingsport
Phil Ramey pmramey2009@yahoo.com
 - 6. Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport
Nancy Walker nancy_k_walker@msn.com
 - 7. Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital** Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net
 - 8. Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees**
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433
 - 9. Rocky Mount Living History Site** Piney Flats
Don Davis home 854-0152, cell 943- 2392 donfdavis@aol.com
 - 10. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park** Elizabethton
Vikki Bradach vbradach@gmail.com
 - 11. Tipton Haynes Historic Site** Johnson City
Claudia Hazel claudiajhazel@yahoo.com
 - 12. Vance Community Gardens** Bristol
Gini Powell PowellG@btcs.org
- Projects 13 and 14 are one weekend a year for each of the 5 activities.
- 13. Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo**
Penny Rutledge pennyrutledge2@aol.com
 - 14. Kingsport MeadowView Women's Expo, Home Show and Farm Show**
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
(423) 646-9043
chris.ramsey@utk.edu

Nov / Dec 2012

This has been a beautiful fall. The colors and weather have been awesome. Hopefully, we will continue to have some good gardening days as move into late fall.

I want to encourage you to enter your volunteer and CEU hours as soon as you can. This will help us to finalize the year more easily and I will also be able to include your hours in a report, which is due on December 1. Any hours you happen to accumulate later in the year must be accounted for in the reporting system by December 31, 2012.

Please call me at 423-279-2723 if you have problems with the online reporting system or if you need a blue reporting form. You do not need to submit a paper form if you submit your hours online.

Don't forget about the special recognition pin for those MGs who report 100 volunteer hours. This pin will be in the shape of a native Tennessee tree. These pins will be given out at the Annual MG Recognition Dinner which will be February meeting of the NETMGA. If you are a 2011 MG Intern and have completed your hours, we want you to have your "Green" MG badge. Let me know and I will bring your badge to you to the December NETMGA meeting.

I would encourage you to consider attending the Master Gardener Winter School scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 7 – 8. More information will be available in early December.

2012 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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GARDENING “DOWN UNDER”

Ever thought about growing your own annuals and perennials from seed? I'd always wanted to try it, but didn't have a good place to grow them indoors. Our cat would eat anything green, so we couldn't even have houseplants! I discovered the solution a few years ago when I purchased an inexpensive portable plastic covered greenhouse. I took it downstairs to our unfinished basement and turned it into a perfect little growing center.

There are several sizes of small portable greenhouses available at the big box stores and online. I started out with a 4 foot by 6 foot unit from Lowe's. Adding a 24 inch fluorescent light fixture from the top of each shelf with small chains made it easy to move the lights up or down as the seedlings grew. In order to add bottom heat during germination, I also bought a few propagation heat mats from the local garden center. There's also inexpensive timers available that make it easy to manage the light since most seedlings require anywhere from 12 to 18 hours of light daily. The temperature in our basement stays around 63 degrees in winter. That allows me to grow many varieties of annual and perennial seeds. In addition, the greenhouse has a full plastic cover with zippers, so it's easy to vent if the humidity gets too high. A small box fan adds air circulation as needed.



All growers have their preferences when it comes to containers. I like to plant my seeds individually in divided flats containing 72 unit inserts. When the seedlings are ready to transplant, they go into 3" or 4" square plastic pots. I buy mine at Mize Farm and Garden since they carry a nice selection of small pots, trays and divided inserts. Lowe's and Home Depot also have a good selection of seed starting supplies and seed starting potting mix.

There's a wealth of information on the internet about managing a hobby greenhouse. It's surprisingly easy as long as you do some planning in advance and follow some basic rules along the way such as light and temperature requirements. I've also found that most of the seed selling companies online include good growing instructions along with their products.

The first year I grew hybrid petunias, salvias, balloon flowers and gloriosa daisies. The germination rate was a surprise...I had more flowers than pots to put them in! Now I plan for 85% germination most of the time.

If you'd like to grow unusual varieties that can't be found at the local garden center, growing from seed is the answer. You can push the limits when it comes to creativity and gain a great sense of accomplishment in the process. Plus, having green plants growing under lights gives you a little taste of spring while winter is still going on outside!

Sue Stanley, MG since 2006 and gardening in Greenback TN

Upcoming NETMGA Meetings

Monday, November 12th Board Meeting @ Gray Fairgrounds, 6:00 PM

Monday, December 3rd General Meeting, 6:00 PM NETMGA Dinner Meeting **See Page 1 for Details**



International Master Gardener's Conference 2013

Holland America Cruise line – Ship - Westerdam
Port Schedule
Sailing from – Seattle, September 7, 2013
Return to – Seattle, September 14, 2013
Ports of call:
Seattle, Washington, US;
Juneau, Alaska, US;
Glacier Bay;
Sitka, Alaska, US;
Ketchikan, Alaska, US;
Victoria, British Columbia, CA



For more information see web site: <http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/default.htm>

Appalachian Heritage Seed Festival and Seed Swap

Sunday, December 2 from 2 – 5 p.m. at

The Slater Center (325 McDowell Street), Bristol, TN

Please join us at the Slater Center in Bristol, TN as the Appalachian Farmers Market Association celebrates the close of the 2012 Farmers Market season with our Appalachian Heritage Seed Festival. If you are a saver of seed, if you enjoy planting new vegetable and flower varieties, or if you would like to grow and/or save seed from locally adapted varieties, this event is for you.

This year's event will feature a presentation by Brook Elliott of Fort Boonesborough's historic gardens entitled "The Heirloom Commitment; Collecting, Growing, and Selling Heirloom Vegetables." It will focus on the joy, taste and marketability of these heritage varieties!

This event is free and open to the public – you do not need to bring seeds in order to attend and enjoy this event – light refreshments will be provided.

NOVEMBER 2012 EVENTS

- 1 2012 MG Class CHBC 6:30 PM Wildlife Management/ John Hamrick
- 1 TN Rose Society, UT Ag Campus, South Greenhouse on Jacob Drive near UT Trial Gardens
6:00PM www.tennesseerosesociety.org
- 1-25 Pumpkin Harvest Display @ UT Gardens in Jackson, TN
- 3 Biomass From Grow UT's Ag Day to celebrate 150 Years of Land Grant College
- 3 NC Arboretum in Asheville 9:30 - 4:30 Introduction to Mosses and Liverworts
\$39./members and \$49./nonmembers To register for NCA classes online
www.ncarboretumregistration.org or call 828-665-2492 x317.
- 3&13 NC Arboretum in Asheville noon - 4:00 PM Beginning a Bamboo Craft for the
Garden (2 part class) \$62/members and \$76/non-members
- 8 2012 Master Gardener Class Graduation CHBC 6:30 PM
- 9-10 Jonesborough 30th Annual Holiday Craft Show and Sale @ Visitors Center
- 10 Roan Mountain State Park Old Time Yule
- 11 Historic Rocky Mount Veteran's Day Walk Through Time
- 12 NETMGA Board Meeting 6:00 PM @ Gray Fairgrounds
- 12 RESERVATION DEADLINE FOR NETMGA DECEMBER 3 DINNER AT JCPB
- 14 NC Arboretum 9:15 AM - 12:15 PM Truth about Bird Feeding
- 15 SAPS Meeting 7:00 PM
Washington County Farm Bureau, 1103 Boones Creek Rd., Jonesborough, TN 37659
Speaker: Hugh Conlon Topic: Your Indoor Green Space
- 17 UT Gardens Knoxville 10:00 AM - 12noon Garden Buds Gourd Band
1:00 - 3:00 PM Adult Workshop: Build Your Own Microclimate
Workshops Cost: \$10/members and \$14/nonmembers. To register call 865-974-7151
- 17-18 Sycamore Shoals State Park Harvest Celebration and Militia Muster at Fort Watauga
- 23-27 National 4-H Congress in Atlanta
- 24 Jonesborough Christmas in Olde Jonesborough and Tree Lighting 3:00 - 6:00 PM
- 28&29 NC Arboretum Designing and Hand Crafting Holiday Wreaths 10:00 to 4:00
\$48/members, \$58/nonmembers

DECEMBER 2012 EVENTS

- 1-31 Sycamore Shoals State Park Winterfest Art Show, Lamplight and Christmas Wreath Exhibit
- 1 Warrior Path State Park Adopt A Tree 10:00 AM to noon
Free Seedlings to Children to plant in the park and at home.
- 1 Exchange Place "Christmas in the Country" 1:00 to 4:00 PM
"Yule Log Ceremony" 4:00 PM
- 1 UT Gardens Knoxville Grandkids Growing: Trash into Treasure 10-12 noon
1:00 - 3:00 PM Adult Class Wreath Making \$25/ members or \$30/nonmembers
Call 865-974-7151 or e-mail dstowell@utk.edu to register
- 3 NETMGA Dinner Meeting 6:00 PM at Johnson City Power Board. Dinner is free to members.
RSVP to a board member or netmga2009@yahoo.com by November 12.
- 7 4th annual Appalachian Heritage Seed Festival 2:00 PM Contact Tom Peterson at 276-623-1121 or
tpeterson@asdevelop.org
- 7-8 Christmas at Carter Mansion 6:00 - 9:00 PM
- 7-8 Historic Rocky Mount Candlelight Christmas Tours. Tours start at 4:30 PM and the last tour starts
at 8:00 PM. Reservations are suggested. Call 423-538-7396.
- 8 Tipton-Haynes Visions of Christmas, 1862 Celebration
Admission is \$5.00 adults and \$2.50 for ages 12 and under.
- 9 Jonesborough Holiday Tour of Homes 2:00 - 6:00 PM 2:00 - 6:00 PM
Cost - \$15.00 Advanced and \$20.00 on the day of the event.
Call 423-753-1010 for advanced ticket.
- 14-15 Repeat of Historic Rocky Mount Candlelight Christmas Tours.
- 14 UT Gardens - Knoxville 10:00 to 11:30 AM Garden Sprouts Gingerbread Cookie Day
\$10/ members \$14/nonmembers
- 14 UT Gardens - Knoxville Garden Buds: Homemade Ornaments 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Call 865-974-7151 to register \$10/ members \$14/ nonmembers

From Linda Day: Free to a good home – a large rubber tree It is 6' in diameter and about 5'8" tall, in a large pot on a dolly and it will take two people to lift. A friend of mine has it in her garage and wants to find a good home before cold weather. First come gets the prize!! If you are interested, call Callie Moore at 477-7338 for more info.



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>

Check out NETMGA's website <http://netmga.net/>