



Master Gardener Thymes

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JULY / AUG 2010

2010 Master Gardener Classes To Meet In Kingsport

The 2010 Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener classes will begin on September 9 and continue for nine weeks. Most sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, 108 Colonial Heights Road in Kingsport, just off I-81 Exit 59. Some classes will be field trips, and two will be held on Saturday. The fee for the program is \$140.00 which includes the Master Gardener Handbook and other related costs. A complete schedule will be in the Sept/Oct newsletter.

Help us spread the word about the Master Gardener program. If you know someone who might be interested, please have him /her contact Chris Ramsey **ASAP** at 423-279-2723. He will send an application and more information about the program. Please do not call the church.

There are many opportunities for Master Gardeners or Interns to be involved with the classes:

Attend any or all of the lectures. It is fun to meet the new students, and there's always something new to learn. Attending one lecture will provide 2.5 CEUs.

Please consider serving as Moderator for one or more of the lectures. The main Moderator duties include: preparing the room for the lecture, welcoming students, introducing the speaker, and ensuring time schedules are adhered to. Two Moderators are needed per lecture and you can earn 3 Administrative Hours Credit per lecture! If interested, please contact the Moderator Coordinator, Karen Campbell, karlyrose@gmail.com , 423-276-3942.

You can also become a "Bud" for one of our new Master Gardener Intern "Sprouts". The Buds & Sprouts Program pairs a Master Gardener (BUD) with a member of the incoming class (SPROUT) for the main purpose of friendship and information sharing. You also earn volunteer hours! Lois Bronson will pair you with a class member and provide more information. Please contact her at 423-239-4285 or honeybee37@charter.net.



LEARN HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR PRODUCE



The next NETMGA meeting will take place on **Monday, August 2**, at the **Gray Community Center**. Master Gardener **Sam Jones** will present a program on **Preserving your Garden Produce**. Sam will lead us through demonstrations on how to can your vegetables. She will also provide tips on freezing and drying food. Sam is the coordinator for Johnson City's Carver Community Garden, where she enjoys teaching residents how to grow and preserve their own food.

Food and fellowship will begin at **6:00pm**. Please bring a finger food to share. The meeting and presentation will begin at **6:30**.

COME TO FARM FEST ON JULY 18



The Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, July 18, 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.

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

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Broadleaf weeds are easily controlled in homeowner lawns. Broadleaves can be chemically removed from grasses. Likewise, grasses can be chemically removed from broadleaves. A class of chemicals called phenoxy herbicides are typically used for broadleaf weed control. Examples of these are dicamba and 2,4-D.

Applicators should use extreme caution with these herbicides as they can drift and cause damage to non-target plant material. Most broadleaf ornamentals, fruit, vegetables, agricultural crops are susceptible to phenoxy herbicide damage. Plants such as tomatoes, peppers, grapes, tobacco are highly sensitive to damage. The applicator should read the label carefully and follow all precautions.

In addition to wind drift, phenoxy herbicides can volatilize into the atmosphere as a vapor up to three days after they have been sprayed. Triclopyr, a herbicide used for controlling woody weeds like poison ivy, can also be volatile but to a lesser degree. Generally, these herbicides should be used when temperatures are less than 80 degrees and the humidity is low. Volatility is less likely under these conditions.

Applicators should be cautious when using broadleaf herbicides around trees, shrubs, and other ornamentals. Herbicide uptake is possible through root suckers and the root system in some circumstances. For example, if dicamba is applied on turf under a dogwood tree it might be possible for the tree to incur damage. Conditions favorable for damage would be heavy rainfall to move the herbicide down into the root system, drought stress, and stress from insects and diseases. The best advice is to not spray broadleaf herbicides under valuable specimen trees.

HOMEGROWN TOMATO FEST SET FOR AUGUST

The sixth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, August 14, 2010, from 9 am until 12 Noon 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, music, tomato-growing advice, and fun for the whole family. There will also be activities for kids and culinary demonstrations.

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 picked up at Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) or downloaded from the SAPS website, www.saps.us.



Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS). To volunteer to help (with slicing tomatoes, salsa booth, children's activities, etc.), call Dennis Marshall at 288-3675 or dmarshall@chartertn.net

Help Fix UT's ListServe Problem

In the past few months email services have been putting utk.edu on "blacklists" to reduce their users' spam. In doing this the UT Office of Information and Technology has been contacting each provider to have utk removed from the list.

Please check your JUNK folders or spam filters for TMG Listserv or ebabbit@tk.edu emails. If you do not do this, the TMG Listserv will drop your rejecting email address after 100 tries.

Since January we have lost over 600 email subscribers to this issue. Master Gardeners are asked to visit the TMG website http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_resources/tmg_login.asp, then click on the Join Listserv link.

To check on possible missed e-mails, click on the archives.

NEW DEADLINE SET TO SUBMIT HOURS

In order to align NETMGA with the entire state of Tennessee, the deadline for entering hours has been changed. The new deadline is December 31, 2010. The annual recognition dinner will follow at the February NETMGA meeting. Please make note of this change in planning and submitting your hours.



HELPERS NEEDED!
Chris needs a few helpers to assemble the Notebooks for the next MG Class, probably in late August. Please call Chris at his office if you are interested. Thanks!

Waterwise Project Moving Along Steadily

The Waterwise Landscaping Project headed by MG Joy Stewart is inching its way toward completion. With the help of Doug Hilton and the trustees at the Gray Fairgrounds, the group has completed work on two rain gardens, one using native plants and the other using non-natives. Team members gathered and hauled more than three tons of river rock to support the sides of the berms.

The next step is to build a kiosk which will provide seating and shade for visitors along with information about waterwise landscaping. In order to keep costs low, the group is looking for donations of building materials or cash. Any MGs who are adept at fund-raising or who have contacts with builders or contractors are asked to contact Joy Stewart at joylarry@btes.tv.

Be sure to stop by the Fairgrounds to check on the progress!~



SUMMER EVENTS SET FOR NC ARBORETUM

The following events have been scheduled at the NC Arboretum in Asheville. For more information check the website:

<http://www.ncarboretum.org/>

On **Wed. July 7th** a workshop on Summer Container gardening will be held starting at 10:00 AM.

On **Sat. and Sun., July 10 and 11** the American Bamboo Society will hold its annual festival. This extremely popular event features bamboo nurseries offering living bamboo plants as well as artists and crafters demonstrating and selling their products. Visitors learn about the artistic value and functionality of this remarkable grass. The weekend includes lectures, demonstrations, crafts, and plant sales. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free with a parking fee.

On **SAT. July 17** at 9:30 AM Bucombe County Master Gardeners will present a program entitled "My Grandmother's Garden." This seminar examines how the past can teach us to be better landscape stewards in the future. Topics include: "Floral Arrangements From the Mixed Border," and "Old Garden Roses."

VISIT HUGH CONLON'S NEW BLOG

UT Extension Agent, Master Gardener and Horticulturist Hugh Conlon has just started a blog for gardeners. The address is hughconlon.blogspot.com. The current blog has some very interesting articles on insects and gardenias. Hugh says his blog will soon become part of a website entitled "**What Grows There,**" Bring your gardening questions and comments along and visit Hugh via the internet.



Thanks Given to MG Helpers

The Schubert Club and the Tuesday Garden Club of Jonesborough would like to thank the volunteers from the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners Association for assisting with the 14th Annual Jonesborough Garden Tour. Their willingness to volunteer their time and expertise is integral to the success of the tour and we really appreciate the dedication and talent of this wonderful group of master gardeners.

UT GARDENS OFFER SUMMER CLASSES

The University of Tennessee Gardens in Knoxville are offering a series of summer activities for gardeners of all ages. Some of the adult classes are listed below: (For a complete list, visit the web site at <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/>)

Tuesday July 13 and 20 Hypertufa Trough Workshop – Create a container for your plants made of sand, peat and concrete. Attend both classes to finish the project. (6:00 to 7:30 on the 13th and 5:00 to 6:00 on the 20th.)

Wednesday July 21 Garden Eats Series: Tasty Tomato – Chef John Antun, Director of the UT Culinary School, will show you how to prepare tasty dishes using freshly harvested foods from the garden. (6:00 to 8:00 PM)

Wednesday, August 18 Garden eats Series: Summer Squash – Once again Chef John Antun shows how to prepare delicious dishes using summer squash. (6:00 to 8:00 PM)

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2010 DATES TO WATCH

July 7	Presentation on Container Gardening, NC Arboretum
July 10-11	Bamboo Society Festival at NC Arboretum
July 13	Hypertufa Trough Workshop - UT Gardens
July 17	<i>My Grandmother's Garden</i> talk at NC Arboretum
July 18	Farm Fest at exchange Place 2:00 to 5:00 PM
July 20	Hyperturfa Trough Workshop (Part II) UT Gardens
July 21	Garden Eats Series - UT Gardens
Aug 2	NETMGA Meeting - Gray 6:00 PM
Aug 14	Homegrown Tomato Fest Kingsport
Aug 18	Garden Eats Series - UT Gardens
Aug 27-28	<i>Speaking of Gardening</i> Symposium at NC Arboretum
Sept 9	Fall MG Classes Begin