

Official Publication



Master Gardener Thymes

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MASTER GARDENER CLASSES SET FOR FALL 2009

The Master Gardener Class Schedule Planning Committee is excited to announce the schedule for fall 2009. Many of the traditional lectures will be repeated, and several new ones have been added, including a night lecture by well known gardener Doug Tallamy. Classes will begin September 10 and continue through November 5, 2009. The classes will meet in the morning from 9:30 to 12:30 at the Gray Community Center with the exception of a few "field trips" to be held at other sites.

Experienced MGs are asked to serve as "Buds" for the new class members (sprouts.) This is a nice way to meet some of the new class members and to help them feel more comfortable as they enter the world of Master Gardening. "Buds" can accumulate volunteer hours just by phoning, e-mailing, writing, or meeting with a "Sprout." Please contact Lois Bronson at 423-239-4285 if you are interested. All MGs are welcome to attend any or all of the classes. Moderators are still

needed for some classes. Please contact Karen Campbell at 276-3942 or via e-mail at karly-rose@gmail.com if you would like to serve in this capacity. Members of the scheduling committee include Nina Hedrick, Joy Moore, Winkle McKinley, Jean Green and Chris Ramsey.



Gardens like these are the products of East Tennessee Master Gardeners. These photos were taken at the home of MG Glenn Keup. Watch for his slide show of other MG gardens at the MG classes this fall.

2009 MASTER GARDENER CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
9/10	INTRODUCING TENNESSEE GARDENING UT MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM	CHRIS RAMSEY BETH BABBITT	Gray Community Center
9/15	SOILS AND PLANT NUTRITION	HUGH LAMBERT CHRIS RAMSEY	Gray Community Center
9/17	BRINGING NATURE HOME	DOUG TALLAMY	Kingsport Renaissance Center Center Street 7- 9:30PM
9/22	WOODY ORNAMENTALS	HUGH CONLON	Good Hope Nursery
9/24	BOTANY	DR. TIMOTHY MCDOWELL	Gray Community Center
9/29	HERBS/WATER-WISE GARDENING	JOY STEWART/ JOY MOORE	Gray Community Center
10/01	FRUITS AND NUTS	DR. RICHARD MOYER	Dr. Moyer's Garden
10/06	PLANT PATHOLOGY	KEITH HART	Gray Community
10/8	PERENNIALS AND ANNUALS	HUGH CONLON	Gray Community Center
10/13	COMPOST/MULCH/PROPAGATION	BEN HUNTER	Ben Hunter's Garden
10/15	VEGETABLES	DR. ALLEN STRAW	Gray Community Center
10/20	LAWN MANAGEMENT/WEEDS	CHRIS RAMSEY	Gray Community Center
10/22	ENTOMOLOGY	MANNY BEDWELL	Gray Community Center
10/27	IPM/PESTICIDE SAFETY	JOY MOORE/ TY PETTY	Gray Community Center
10/29	PRUNING	HUGH CONLON	Hedrick Gardens
11/3	LANDSCAPE DESIGN	KEN SOERGEL	Gray Community Center
11/5	PLANT SELECTION & CARE / Q+A PERIOD	NINA HEDRICK	Gray Community Center

All classes are 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM unless otherwise noted.



Chris' Corner

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What a difference a year makes! From drought to green. It's absolutely true – no two years are alike. As we are approaching fall, the end of the Master Gardener reporting year is almost here! Please complete the reporting of your hours by October 31, 2009. Note that this date is one month later than last year. These hours must be entered online on the UT Extension Master Gardener website:

mastergardener.tennessee.edu

If you can't enter these hours yourself, please submit hours on the blue report form (available at sullivan.tennessee.edu). Someone will enter the hours for you. If you have a computer-savvy friend, they can accumulate hours by entering

your hours online. **Everyone should keep a paper copy of your hours – even if it's your notes on the kitchen calendar!** The annual recognition dinner is scheduled for November 30. Be sure to save this date!

Hours entered after October 31 will count toward your annual certification, but not for our annual recognition event on November 30. Please make every possible effort to enter hours accumulated prior to October 31 by that date. These hours will be counted in my report which reflects my program impact.

If you need additional "ACT" hours or CEUs, there are many opportunities for you in the area. Call me at 279-2723 or refer to the list of MG projects which is listed on the UT Extension Sullivan County website:

sullivan.tennessee.edu

Click on publications and then Master Gardener.

Chris

MG Meeting Planned for October

Save the date now for the October 5th Master Gardener meeting at the Gray Community Center. Blinda Anderson, Teresa Tittle, Johnny Suthers and Chris Ramsey will be reviewing the 2009 Winter School Program, state master gardener projects and educational opportunities. Officers will also be discussing the upcoming Fall North East Tennessee Regional Master Gardener meeting in October at the UT Trial Gardens in Knoxville.

If you are the 10th person to say hello to the secret person in the photo below you might win one of the fabulous door prizes to be given away at the meeting.

Fellowship begins at 6:00 with the meeting starting at 6:30. All members are asked to bring a can of food for the food pantry. See you there!



HEAR DOUG TALLAMY IN KINGSPORT

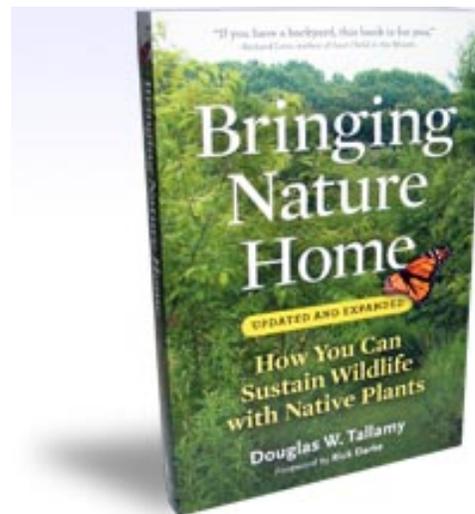
Douglas Tallamy, nationally known author of Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens, will present a free public lecture on Thursday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at Kingsport Renaissance Center on Center Street (Hwy. 36).

Dr. Tallamy, Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, has authored 69 research articles and has taught In-



sect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses for 28 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book, Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens, was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association.

This program is sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and the North Carolina Arboretum. For more information call 423-348-6572 or e-mail jonmoore@tricon.net.



It's Time for the Fall Folk Arts Festival at Exchange Place!

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 37th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 26, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, September 27, from 12 noon to 5 pm. The Festival will focus on harvest time activities on an 1850s farm with an emphasis on pioneer arts and crafts, old timey foods, music, children's activities and living history reenactments. Artisans will demonstrate and sell a wide array of traditional folk arts, and the Haldest Market will feature plants, autumn produce and seasonal crafts. Admission is \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children. For more information, call 423-288-6071. To volunteer to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth, please call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail at jonmoore@tricon.net.

MGs INVITED TO PLANT SWAP



Master Gardeners are invited to join SAPS members for the annual Plant and Seed Swap on Saturday, October 10, from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm at Rotary Park in Johnson City. Bring your favorite plant or seed to trade for something new and different. Please label plants and seeds with the variety name, if known. Special plants may be used for the silent auction which helps fund speakers each year. Used plastic nursery pots - quart size and larger – may be brought for recycling or reuse. Previously read gardening magazines and catalogs are welcome, too.

The event will begin with a pot luck luncheon, followed by the plant swap and auction. The swap will be held rain or shine under the picnic shelter. Set-up for the Luncheon/Plant Swap will begin at 11:00 am. Lunch starts at 11:30 and the Seed/Plant Swap and Silent Auction runs from 12:30 to 1:30 pm.

Directions

From Kingsport: Head south on I-26 to State of Franklin Road exit in Johnson City. Turn left at bottom of the ramp, then move over into the right hand lane. At the first light, turn right onto Oakland Avenue.

***Continue on Oakland through a residential area and then past Monte Vista Cemetery, followed by another residential area. Pass the Girl Scout office on your left. At the next street, turn left onto 9th Avenue, and then take the first left. Rotary Park entrance is on the left about 1/2 block away.

From Bristol: Head south on Volunteer Parkway all the way to JC. Travel through the “magnificent Johnson City Motor Mile” to the stoplight at the corner of Oakland and Bristol Highway. Turn left onto Oakland and follow directions from *** above.

GET IN ON THE “GROUND FLOOR” WITH NEW MG PROPOSAL

by Joy Stewart

The NE Tennessee Master Gardener Program is proposing the establishment of a demonstration site to showcase a number of sustainable garden and landscaping techniques. Specifically, the techniques would be ones that play an essential role in helping to protect our environment, such as rain gardens, rain barrels, dry creek beds, eco-swales, pervious pavement, use of native plants, and reducing the area of mowed lawn. The purpose of the site is to educate the public on how landscaping can conserve and protect our natural resources while being both functional and beautiful.

Basic components of the project will include: (a) selecting a site for installation; (b) choosing techniques to be demonstrated; (c) locating a landscape designer and nursery willing to donate services and materials in exchange for promotional benefits; (d) preparing an effective advertising and promotional campaign; (e) installation; (f) creation of educational signage; and (g) an open house.

We welcome any master gardener who would like to work on this project. We need both people who are interested in participating in the planning process and who are interested in helping with any stage of installation. We would like to begin by creating a small group of master gardeners who will work on identifying criteria for a desirable demonstration site. Then we will likely be asking for ideas for actual sites.

We are in an exciting time where sustainability and environmental issues are merging with our passion for gardening and landscape design. It is a chance to have fun learning new gardening techniques and to act as stewards of our region’s natural resources at the same time!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Joy Stewart at joylarry@btes.tv or call 573-2376.

LEARN ABOUT NATIVE PLANTS

Submitted by Nina Hedrick



Dutchman's breeches courtesy of
www.kentuckycrossroads.com

How would you like to learn more about NATIVE PLANTS, without having to spend hours studying books or listening to lectures! Learn how, when and where to plant them, what they look like in a real natural setting and in all seasons. Are they spring ephemerals? Do they re-seed easily? Do they bloom? How did they get those "funny" common names, like Dutchman's Breeches or Jacob's Ladder? You can learn all this while earning MG Community Volunteer hours!

All you have to do is join the MG Volunteer Committee currently working on the Braille Trail Native Plantings at the Boundless Playground at Warriors Path State Park in Kingsport. We'll have a work session on **Saturday, September 12 from**

9:00-12:00. If you are interested in learning more about the project, we will be happy to bring you up-to-date. Just contact Gwynn Duncan at 239-0460 geduncan@charter.net or Nina Hedrick at 502-7180 hedrick@chartertn.net and we'll meet you at the Park, show you what we've done and what we still want to do!

This project will also be submitted to the Tennessee Master Gardener Search for Excellence recognition program. It meets many of the requirements, including collaboration with other organizations, like the Lion's Club and Friends of Warrior's Path State Park; obtaining grant funds to purchase plants; and providing education and beauty to the community.

AND THE WINNING TOMATO IS..... More than 40 varieties of tomatoes were represented at the 5th Annual Tomato Fest held August 8th at Glenn Bruce Park in Kingsport, TN. The big winners are listed below. **Best Tasting Tomato:**

Category RED

(28 varieties)

1st place: Brandywine (photo courtesy of hubpages.com)
2nd place: Fourth of July
3rd place (tie): Big Beef, Burger Red, Celebrity, Big Boy, Bloody Butcher, Early Girl, Ben Zac



Category Yellow/Orange

(6 varieties)

1st: Carolina Gold
2nd: Mr. Stripecy

Category Multicolor

(only 2 varieties)

1st: Castoluto Genovese
2nd: Stripecy German

Other

(only 3 varieties)

1st Cherokee Purple
2nd: (tie): Zebra and Black Krim

Tomato Fest V is an annual program offered by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS)

FALL CLEAN UP ON TAP AT CARVER COMMUNITY GARDEN

Submitted by Sam Jones

A fall garden cleanup workday has been tentatively scheduled for Oct 17th at 1 pm at the Carver Community Garden in Johnson City. This could be the perfect time to gain those final 2 hours of time needed to remain certified as an MG this year! If you're just interested in seeing the garden, it's located at the corner of Watauga Ave and Jackson Sts. Drive by and see that 10' tall corn waving at you from the corner or the beautiful sunflowers surrounding it that were planted by the Jr. Gardener's at Carver! Last year's fall cleanup resulted in 13 neighborhood residents showing up to help, none of whom held plots in the garden, they just wanted to show their support for it.

The Carver Community Garden is finishing up its second growing season. There were a total of 11 growers this year, some repeats from last summer, others new to growing in general, and all learning how to deal with less than optimum soil. But the challenges this year were fewer than last, and the produce that has come out of these 10x20 foot plots has been amazing!

Some gardeners are raising vegetables for their own tables, others are donating theirs to their church food pantries, and both years have produced a new master gardener to the program!

A 'harvest potluck' was held to celebrate the season's bounty. Diners feasted on garlic mashed potatoes, fresh green beans, tomato/zucchini casserole cooked in a solar cooker, along with many other wonderful dishes. Dessert was chocolate zucchini cake. A sense of community is growing right along with the plants in this successful Master Gardener project.

The city's generous support of the land and water, as well as free delivery of straw and chopped leaves has not only helped the gardeners directly but has placed it on a national database website of community gardens. Contact Sam Jones at simpleintn@yahoo.com or call 349-6119 for more information on the Carver Community Garden.



“A Camellia in Every Garden”

By Hugh Conlon



Camellia 'Pink Icicle' Photo by James S. Burghardt
Courtesy of www.learn2grow.com

Over 40 varieties of winter hardy camellias are currently available for planting now. Camellias bloom reliably either in the fall and or in the early spring in the Tri-Cities Tennessee and through most of southeastern Virginia in USDA hardiness zone 6. In garden elevations above 2000 feet, hardy camellias require a more protected site to bloom reliably. For the beginner I recommend starting with two cultivars: 'Pink Icicle' blooming in the early spring garden and 'Winter Star' in early autumn.

Growing camellias is very much like that of rhododendrons. Camellia foliage is lustrous green year-round and rarely bothered by disease or pest

problems. Camellias relish a richly organic, well-drained, and acidic soil. A garden site with a northeasterly exposure is a perfect nook, one that is partially shaded from strong mid-day sun and protected from drying winter winds.

The soil should be generously amended with organic media such as peat or compost. After planting, camellias should be properly mulched with 2-3 inches of pine bark chips or needles. Immediate mulching after planting traps the soil warmth and moisture so that roots grow deeply before the winter cold settles in.

Camellias are easy to care for. They should be nourished with an acidifying fertilizer such as MiracleGro™, Miracid™ or equivalent in the months of March, May and July. Shrubs may be adequately watered over the first two years when natural rainfall is low.

Places to shop for camellias in the Tri-cities region are Snively Nursery in Blountville, Martin's Greenhouse in Rogersville, Evergreen Garden Centers in Kingsport and Johnson City, TN and Bristol, VA and Farm Direct Greenhouse in Jonesborough.



Camellia 'Winter's Star'
Photo courtesy of
www.fairweathergardens.com

Regional Events Calendar

September 12 and 13 - Carolinas Dahlia Society Annual Show:

Hundreds of dahlia blooms in rainbow colors and multi-bloom variety bouquets will be on display. Guests to The NC Arboretum will be able to enjoy the shows and flower sales as well as trail walks, family activities, and exhibits. Free with the parking fee of \$6 per personal vehicle; always free for Arboretum Society members.

October 2 and 3 - Bulb Lecture: The North Carolina Arboretum welcomes Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs of Virginia for a weekend of expert workshops and seminars and a bulb sale. Information at 828.665.2492, Ext. 319.

October 3 - Warrior's Path State Park 29th Annual Environmental Educational Workshop "Nature Nearby" led by Marty Silver, Park Ranger. Visit their web site for more information.

October 10 and 11 - The 14th Carolina Bonsai Expo: This two-day event features a juried display of bonsai by clubs from across a six-state region, a renowned bonsai marketplace, workshops, free demonstrations, and a popular Ikebana exhibit. The Carolina Bonsai Expo is also the perfect occasion to explore the Arboretum's Bonsai Exhibition Garden, which offers a world-class display that innovatively establishes bonsai in the context of the Southern Appalachians.

October 17 and 18 - NC Chrysanthemum Society Annual Show:

Hundreds of chrysanthemum blooms in vibrant and varied colors will be on display. This judged exhibit highlights the exceptional variety in size, shape and color of these popular fall flowers. The show is a perfect opportunity to learn more about how to grow display or show quality chrysanthemums.

October 20 - The Truth about Birdfeeding: Join us for this special presentation at 1 p.m. by Simon Thompson of Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop of Asheville. Located at the Education Center Auditorium. Free.

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DATES TO WATCH

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|--------------|---|
| Sept 10 | Master Gardener Class Begin |
| Sept 12 | Work Day - Braille Trail, Warrior's Path |
| Sept 12 – 13 | Carolina Dahlia Show, NC Arboretum |
| Sept 17 | Dog Tallamy - Speaker, Kingsport |
| Sept 26-27 | Fall Festival, Exchange Place |
| Oct 2-3 | Bulb Lecture, NC Arboretum |
| Oct 4 | Environmental Expo, Warrior's Path State Park |
| Oct 5 | NETMGA Meeting, Gray |
| Oct 10 | Plant Swap, Johnson City |
| Oct 10 – 11 | Carolina Bonsai Expo, NC Arboretum |
| Oct 17 | Fall Garden Clean Up, Carver Community Garden |
| Oct 17-18 | NC Chrysanthemum Show, NC Arboretum |
| Oct 20 | Birdfeeding Presentation, NC Arboretum |
| Oct 31 | Deadline for Reporting MG Hours |