

Master Gardeners Make Their Mark in Unicoi County



North East Tennessee Master Gardeners made a dramatic impact at the Unicoi County Courthouse in Erwin on September 12, 2008. Under the guidance of Valerya Hyrne, the gardeners planted several beds and helped create a welcoming atmosphere around the courthouse. Trustees from the jail helped with the heavy work. Local gardeners donated plants, including daylilies. As the weeks progressed the beds filled out and were very attractive.



Above Carol Lee Logan working on the ice plants.
Left Valerya Hyrne and the Unicoi County jail trustees.
Right Valerya planting one of the donated daylilies.



IT'S TIME TO BE RECOGNIZED!



All Master Gardeners and Interns are invited to the annual recognition dinner at the Appalachian Fair Farm and Home Building on Tuesday November 18, 2008. The evening will begin at 6:00 with time for fellowship among fellow gardeners. At 6:30 the covered dish meal will begin, followed by the Awards Program.

Guests are welcome to come. Master Gardeners are asked to bring your favorite potluck specialty, planning on enough to feed yourself and your guests. Drinks, plates, and other essentials will be provided. See you there!

WREATHMAKING DAY AT EXCHANGE PLACE

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreathmaking Workshop on Wednesday, December 3, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. With inspiration and guidance from Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Native Habitat Nursery and Herbarium, participants will create an evergreen wreath and kissing ball 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 jon-moore@tricon.net.



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

"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.

3-5 yards of 2" ribbon

Come to Christmas in the Country



"Christmas In the Country " will be held Saturday, December 6 from 10 - 3, and Sunday, December 7 from 12 - 4:30, at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. The celebration features fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, traditional foods and their related folk arts, unique decorations, a living history re-enactment and creativity sessions for all ages. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony is at 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. For more information or to preregister for workshops, please call 423-288-6071.

Adopt A Tree Day for Kids

Kids are invited to bring their parents to Warrior's Path State Park on Saturday December 10, 2008 for the Adopt a Tree event. Children and parents should come by 10:00 AM to plant a tree. For each tree planted the children get a free seedling to take home. Come early while supplies are plentiful. Dress for the weather and bring digging tools. The planting lasts from 10:00 to 12:00. Follow signs from the Park entrance to the tree site.



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
(423) 279-2723

Congratulations on your great response in getting your hours in this year very timely. We even had about 100 MGs to enter the hours online. We are currently in the process of completing the online entry process and getting the hours in a form to aid the printing of the recognition certificates.

Thank you for your continued membership and participation in the NETMGA. The existence of this group is essential to the success and growth of the North East TN Master Gardener Program. The group brings everyone together as an identifiable group.

I would like to challenge you to consider a new

approach next year. We have many exciting and beneficial community MG projects, but often these projects only involve two or three MGs. Master Gardener projects can involve other community groups and organizations such as high school clubs, girl scouts, boy scouts, 4-H clubs, adult service organizations, etc. This approach would involve a MG pitching a project to a group with the objective of employing their membership to assist with the project. You would have an army of volunteers expanding the efforts of the Master Gardener Program and UT Extension even more. I realize this would require an extra level of planning, but the impact and results would justify the preparation.

Keep in mind that the MG Hours Report form is available at my website, sullivan.tennessee.edu or by mail upon request by calling 279-2723. Get started on those hours early for the 2008-09 year. THANK YOU!

Call me at 423-279-2723 if you have any questions.

LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND A CLASS

Two more classes are scheduled in early November for the 2008 Master Gardener Interns. All MGs are invited to attend these educational lectures. They are a great way to earn CEUs. The classes are held at Rocky Mount Historic Site near Johnson City from 6:00 to 9:00 pm on Tuesday nights. The remaining classes are:

11/6/08	Pesticide Safety	Joy Moore and Ty Petty
11/11/08	Benefits of Bees to Plants and Beekeepers Bees and Other Pollinators	Dr. John Skinner

Winter School Coming to Lebanon in February

The annual Winter School will be held at the Fairgrounds in Lebanon, Tennessee from Thursday Feb. 19 through Saturday Feb. 21, 2009. Two tracts will be offered, one in leadership and the other in education. The education tract will focus on Water Smart Gardening. More information will be available in the Jan/Feb MG Thymes. Interested gardeners may contact Chris Ramsey at 423-279-2723



Plan Ahead To Earn Volunteer Hours

Two opportunities to have fun and to earn volunteer hours are coming up this winter and spring. The first is the annual Farm Expo held at Meadowview Conference Center January 23 – 25, 2009. Workers are needed to collect tickets and to staff a Master Gardener Information Booth. The schedule is as follows:

Friday Jan 23	3:45 – 6:30	Need 2 workers for each job (4 total)
	6:30 – 9:00	Need 2 workers for each job (4 total)
Saturday Jan. 24	9:45 – 1:00	Need 3 workers for each job (6 total)
	1:00 – 4:00	Need 3 workers for each job (6 total)
	4:00 – 6:00	Need 3 workers for each job (6 total)
Sunday Jan 25	12:45 – 3:00	Need 3 workers for each job (6 total)
	3:00 – 5:00	Need 3 workers for each job (6 total)

The second event is the Home Show also held at Meadowview On March 6 – 8. At this event workers will be needed to staff the information booth only. The schedule is:

Friday March 6	3:45 – 6:30	Need 3 workers for each time slot
	6:30 – 9:00	
Saturday March 7	9:15 – 12:00	Need 3 workers for each time slot
	12:00 – 2:30	
	2:30 – 5:00	
	5:00 – 7:30	
Sunday March 8	11:45 – 2:30	Need 3 workers for each time slot
	2:30 – 5:00	

Get together with your best friend or someone you'd like to get to know and volunteer early to get the time slot you want. Call Doug Hilton at 423-239-9433 to sign up.

Exercise Your Brain at a Global Workshop

The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville NC is offering two thought-provoking workshops this fall. Put together a carpool and plan on attending.

On Saturday, November 15, 2008, at 9:30 AM George Hawkins, Esq., will present a lecture on "Cowboys, Spacemen, Global Warming and a Theory of Almost Everything." Mr. Hawkins is Director of the District Department of the Environment, Washington, DC. Hawkins connects global warming to water quality and quantity issues, environmental laws, and the decisions each of our communities make about the land in our neighborhoods. The program is free, but registration is required, and can be made by calling 828-665-2492, x317 or on the Web site, www.ncarboretum.org

On Thursday, November 20, 2008 a series of lectures will be presented by regional experts on "The Changing Mountain Environment: Sustainable Landscape Design."

The schedule includes:

- 9:30 am Principles of Sustainable Design
- 11:00 am Integrated Pest Management in the Home Landscape
- 1:00 am Rainwater Catchment Systems and Uses
- 2:30 pm Plant Selections for Sustainable Landscapes

Both programs will be presented at the Education Center Auditorium

2008 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Valerya Hyrne
350 Tilson Mountain Road
Flag Pond, TN 37657
(423) 743-9093
catsmeow24@embarqmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Pamela Pope
457 Brookdale Drive
Piney Flats, TN 37686
(423) 538-7770
pamelapope@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Lisa Bradley
143 New Salem Drive
Limestone, TN 37681
(423) 257-3009
lgbradley1@comcast.net

TREASURER

Connie Dean
720 Dover Avenue
Mount Carmel, TN 37645
(423) 357-4219
lcdean@chartrtertn.net

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Gwyn Duncan
221 De Lee Drive
Kingsport, TN 37663
(423) 239-0460
geduncan@charter.net

2008 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP

Sally Richard
(423) 477-1903
sdr37615@comcast.net

HOSPITALITY

Kathy & Larry Wagner
423 Wine Circle
Blountville, TN 37617

NEWSLETTER

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

PROJECT

Dennis Marshall
(423) 288-3675
marshalls3@embarqmail.com

PUBLICITY

Teresa Tittle
(423) 963695
teresa5937@hotmail.com

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

WEBSITE

Belinda Bridwell
belindagb@comcast.net

PROGRAM

Sandee Cook
3660 West Pines Road
Greeneville, TN 37745

Junella McClellan (Layout Design)
(423) 764-0736
j.mcclellan@hotmail.com

Food for Thought

The following article was forwarded by Beth Babbitt. To read the entire article, visit the web site listed at the end.

One day in 2001, the entomologist Douglas W. Tallamy was strolling around the 10-acre property he and his wife, Cindy, had bought recently in Pennsylvania when he saw something weird. A black-cherry tree, a native species, was serving as a feast for insects, but hardly any were chewing on the leaves of nearby exotic plants, the Japanese honeysuckle and Oriental bittersweet. The realization struck him: Alien plants cannot sustain healthy populations of herbivorous bugs, one of the most essential levels of the food chain.

Now that humans have disturbed about 95 percent of the original habitats in the United States, Mr. Tallamy says, suburban gardens and landscapes are among the last refuges for wildlife but gardeners tend to favor lush exotic ornamentals over native flora. A large proportion of local insects, the so-called specialist species like the eastern tent caterpillar and the western striped cucumber beetle, cannot eat newly introduced plant species, because the insects have not evolved with them and they are not adapted to the newcomers' leaf chemistry or physical defenses, such as thorns or tough tissues. That is causing specialist-insect populations to plummet. And once they are gone, the next to follow will be the animals that feed on them: birds, amphibians, reptiles, and many mammals.

"It took me 30 years more than it should have to see this pattern, because I had been focusing too much on insects," says Mr. Tallamy, 57, who is chairman of the department of entomology and wildlife ecology here at the University of Delaware. "I really had no interest in plants for most of my career. And most entomologists and ornithologists don't. They don't know anything about plants. But insects get their food from plants. It all starts with plants."

The appeal of his message, Mr. Tallamy says, is that it offers a partial solution to environmental problems.

"The global-warming issue is a very difficult one for the individual to deal with," he explains. "We can try having a smaller carbon footprint, but everybody intuitively knows that as an individual you're not going to be able to make a measurable impact on the planet. "But you can put native plants in your yard, and you can see a measurable impact on biodiversity in a short period of time. That empowers people. It makes them feel like they can actually make a difference in their area."

<http://chronicle.com>

Section: Notes From Academe

Volume 55, Issue 8, Page A8

Copyright © 2008 by The Chronicle of Higher Education

2008 DATES TO WATCH

Fri. Nov. 7	Fall Foliage Walk Steele's Creek Park, Bristol, 4- 6:00 PM , Meet at Nature Center
Tues. Nov. 11	Gardening in the Mountains: Welcoming Bees To Your Garden NC Arboretum, Asheville, NC 10 AM, Education Center
Sat. Nov. 15	Lecture on Global Issues, NC Arboretum, Asheville, NC, 9:30 AM
Tues. Nov. 18	Recognition Dinner for NETMGA, 6:00, Appalachian Fair Grounds
Thur. Nov. 20	Lecture on Sustainable Landscape Design, NC Arboretum, Asheville, NC 9:30 – 2:30
Wed. Dec. 3	Wreathmaking Workshop at Exchange Place, 9:30 AM-2:30
Sat. Dec. 6 and Sun. Dec. 7	Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place, Kingsport Sat 10 AM to 3:00 PM and Sun Noon to 4:30 PM
Sat. Dec. 10	Adopt a Tree Day at Warrior's Path State Park, Kingsport, 10:00 – 12:00

2009 DATES TO WATCH

Sat. Jan 10	Winter Garden Festival at Warrior's Path State Park Speaker from Callaway Gardens, 10 AM
Fri. Jan. 23	Farm Expo, Meadowview Convention Center
Sat. Jan. 24	
Sun Jan. 25	
Sat. Jan. 31	NETMGA Dues to be paid
Fri. Feb 19	Winter School, Lebanon TN
Sat. Feb. 20	
Sun. Feb. 21	
Fri. March 6	Home Show, Meadowview Convention Center
Sat. March 7	



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>

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2009

It's almost time for members of NETMGA to pay dues. The money collected insures your receipt of the MG Thymes every other month. Dues are \$15.00 and may be mailed to Sally Richard, 137 Bentwood lane, Gray, TN 37615 or brought to the recognition dinner. MG Interns have already paid dues as part of their MG class fees. The last day to pay dues is Jan. 31, 2009.