

BOUNDLESS PLAYGROUND OPENS IN KINGSPORT



Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground, *A Place for ALL CHILDREN of ALL ABILITIES to Play*, opened at Warrior's Path State Park last spring. North East Tennessee Master Gardeners have been busy landscaping this very popular place. NETMGA members assist with the maintenance of the existing landscaping and have planted a raised Sensory Herb Garden. The plant material is all native to Tennessee. The next phase is an interactive walking Braille Trail with stations based on scenes from **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**, the first book of [The Chronicles of Narnia](#) by [C. S. Lewis](#). After the hardscapes are in place this fall, Master Gardeners will be landscaping the stations with appropriate plants to depict Winter and Spring scenes and the Cave and Beaver's Den. Committee members include Jerry Cunningham, Angie Droke, Gwyn Duncan, Nina Hedrick, Joy Moore, and Natu Patel. Work days are scheduled throughout the summer to weed and mulch and install the Braille Trail plants. Contact Gwyn Duncan at 239-0460 or geduncan@charter.net for more information.

HELP WITH THE HERB GARDEN: EARN HOURS!!

Loads of MG certification hours can be earned by helping with the programs for school children at the Herb Garden during the Appalachian Fair. Dates are August 19-21. Hours are 8:30am until about 1:30pm each day. A short presentation will be given to each group introducing herbs-what they are, how they are used and some history of the use of herbs. Then the children tour the herb garden.

MGs who don't want to talk in front of the children may help with crowd control-to protect the garden from the children and to keep them from the aspects of the garden that might be harmful to them. MGs do not have to work every day. A planning meeting is scheduled for July 15 at 5:30 before the general MG meeting at the Gray Community Center. Please contact Lisa Jones wile@charter.net or 239-8811 ahead of time if you are interested in helping.

“BEE” PRESENT FOR A SWEET TALK



www.colleenpatrick.com

MGS are invited to the July 15 NETMGA meeting to hear a fascinating presentation on honey bees. Mr. John Snavely will give an introduction to bee keeping and the importance of bees to gardening. Hugh Conlon will present a slide show of bee friendly plants. Without honey bees there would not be as many fruiting and flowering plants to enjoy. Come "bee" with us on July 15 and get some CEU credit.

Please bring refreshments to share-perhaps something made with honey! The gathering begins at 6:00 pm with snacks, followed by the meeting at the Gray Community Building "Bee."

IT'S "BACK TO SCHOOL TIME" FOR MGS

Now is the time for Master Gardeners to be telling their friends and coworkers about the Master Gardener Training Program. 2008 Master Gardener Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Tues. Sept. 16 and ending with Graduation Dinner on Nov. 18. (No class on Election Day, Nov. 4). Classes will begin at 6:30 pm and end at 9:30 pm and will be held at Rocky Mount Living History Museum in Piney Flats. The lectures, specific schedule, and directions will be published shortly, as the Planning Committee is still finalizing some dates with lecturers.

Interested persons should contact Chris Ramsey at the Extension Office (423-279-2723) and will be sent an application. Master Gardeners and interns are welcome to attend any classes of interest and receive CEU credits.

Current MGs are asked to serve as moderator for one or more of the lectures (Volunteer Hours are accrued). The main duties of Moderators 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. Please contact Nina Hedrick, (Temporary Moderator Coordinator) at hedrick@chartertn.net.

Master Gardeners are also encouraged to serve as a "Bud" for the incoming Master Gardener Class of "Sprouts". (Volunteer Hours accrued). Buds & Sprouts pairs a Master Gardener (BUD) with a member of the incoming class (SPROUT) for the main purpose of friendship and information sharing. Lois Bronson is in charge of this program. Please contact her at 423-239-4285 or honeybee37@charter.net.



Chris' Corner

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

The summer gardening season is moving along rapidly! Hopefully, you are finding ample opportunities to get involved and accumulate those MG volunteer hours and CEUs. Please **plan to fully report your MG hours by September 30.** That's less than 3 three months away!

There are many opportunities around the area to get involved in ongoing projects. You can find a list of projects at sullivan.tennessee.edu. We have at least 15 active projects with opportunities in all area cities and communities. Lack of MG opportunities in our program is not an excuse. **Call me**

now if you need ideas on where to get involved!

The volunteer service requirement is 40 hours for Master Gardener Interns and 25 hours for certified Master Gardeners. Both of these groups should accumulate 8 hours of Continuing Education (CEUs).

The 2007 Fall Master Gardener class is in the planning stages. The class will tentatively be held at the Rocky Mount Historical Site facility in Piney Flats. This is a convenient location and the Rocky Mount staff is looking forward to hosting the group. The class will tentatively meet on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The program will begin on September 16 and end on approximately November 9. Please spread the word to other potentially interested individuals. They may call me to put their name and address on our mailing list. Program details and an application will be mailed in late July.



PHOTO by guernsey.osu.edu

CALLING ALL TOMATO GROWERS!

All local tomato growers are invited to bring their homegrown tomatoes to the Fourth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest August 9, 2008 at Glen Bruce Park in Kingsport. Tomato lovers may taste multiple tomato varieties and salsa, watch culinary demonstrations, see garden inspired art, collect information on preserving tomatoes, and enjoy children's activities.

Competition will be held in the following categories:

- ~Best Tasting Tomato
- ~Best Tasting Tomato Salsa
- ~ Ugliest Tomato
- ~Biggest Tomato
- ~Prettiest Tomato
- ~Most Bizarre Tomato
- ~Best Dressed Tomato (outfit your tomato)

Bring entries and tomato donations between 8:30am-9:00am on August 9th to Glen Bruce Park, Kingsport (next to Library). For information and entry rules call Downtown Kingsport Association @ 423-246-6550. This event is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS, www.saps.us), the Downtown Kingsport Association, and the Kingsport Times-News.

MGs TRAVEL TO WEAVERVILLE

On June 14 Master Gardeners made a trip to Weaverville, NC to Mountain Meadows Nursery, owned by Mike Balogh. Mike spoke on conifers at the State Conference last year. Mountain Meadows specializes in dwarf and unusual conifers and evergreens and offers over 400 varieties. Dwarf conifers come in many shapes, colors and textures for year-round interest. They are smaller versions of more familiar varieties because they grow more slowly and take much longer to reach their mature height. They are very low maintenance, requiring only watering the first year after planting. Mike's yard is beautifully landscaped with many of the plants in his nursery, some of which are 30 years old, demonstrating how dwarf conifers can be incorporated in just about any available space in the garden.

OBITUARY

Dr. Elisabeth Ward Swain died Feb. 7, 2008 at Massachusetts General Hospital of an aggressive form of cancer. She was 66. Dr. Swain was the wife of Roger Swain who was the keynote speaker for the 2007 MG Conference in Kingsport. She managed her husband's appearances at garden shows, and was also a Phi Beta Kappa scholar with a doctorate in Italian history from Harvard. Please keep the family in your prayers.

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OPPORTUNITIES OF INTEREST

Looking for a gardening related day trip or weekend excursion? Think about the following possibilities:

SUMMER CELEBRATION, JACKSON TN July 10, 2008

10am-8pm free admission as always!

Bamboo Society Festival Saturday, July 12, 2008 and Sunday, July 13, 2008

The American Bamboo Society's Southeastern Chapter hosts its second annual Bamboo Festival. Visitors will learn about the artistic value and functionality of this remarkable grass. The weekend includes lectures, demonstrations, crafts and plant sales.

SURVIVING DIFFICULT TIMES IN THE GREEN INDUSTRY

Attention all Agents, Specialists, Green Industry Professionals & Master Gardeners: Charlie Hall (Horticulture Economist) and a group of experts are coming back to Tennessee for a one day workshop called "Surviving Difficult Times in the Green Industry: Managing Risk and Uncertainty in a Maturing Marketplace"

It will be in Chattanooga at the UT Extension Building on August 8th, 2008, Cost is only \$20, which includes a nice lunch.

Contact Tom Stebbins - UT Extension Agent Phone: 423-855-6113 E-mail: tstebbins@utk.edu

CULLOWHEE NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

Held in Cullowhee, NC, this conference will explore all aspects of gardening with native plants. Dates for the conference are July 23-26 and IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

<http://nativeplantconference.wcu.edu/>

Modern Design Aquascaping

Friendsville, TN – June 20, 2008 – Landscaping is an art form that everyone can enjoy; and adding color, sparkle and movement to your own personal haven is the focus of this month's Pond-Party. Modern Design Aquascaping will be hosting this free event at their Design Center and Display Gardens in Friendsville, TN, on Saturday, June 28th, from 4 PM until just after dark.

Contact: Sharon A. Fields
Phone: 865-995-1234
Website: MDAquascaping.com
Email: sharonafields@adelphia.net <<mailto:sharonafields@adelphia.net>>

The Nature of Design: Education for the Future

2008 Annual Conference of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry

Save the Date! September 11 & 12, 2008

Hilton-Downtown Knoxville

[Forestry-www.natureofdesign.org](http://www.natureofdesign.org)



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2008 DATES TO WATCH

July 15	NETMGA meeting and Bee Talk
August 9	Tomato Fest
August 19 – 21	Appalachian Fair – Gray, Tennessee
Sept 16	Fall MG classes begin
Sept. 30	MG Hours due