

## COMMUNITY GARDEN STARTED IN JC



From left, Herb Greenlee, Sam Jones and Michale Jones begin the process of laying out beds for the community gardening project at the Carver Recreation Center.

(Tony Duncan / Johnson City Press)

A new Master Gardener project is under way in Johnson City. According to Master Gardener Sam Jones, project co-ordinator, the planned Community Garden for Johnson City is moving along nicely. Jones notes that this garden is the only food-growing project currently sponsored by Master Gardeners in East Tennessee. It is based on similar, successful projects in other cities. According to Jones, "A project like this can not only help build community, but provide much needed food and life skills for the active participants."

A large, sunny, level spot has been secured at the corner of Unaka and Jackson Ave, located on the outer perimeter of Carver Park. The city plowed the site and tilled in soil amendments. Additional site work is still needed by volunteers before actual planting takes place. The teens that attend after school and summer programs at Carver Recreation center are being recruited, along with members of the surrounding neighborhood association and churches.

Volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners will exist in May to get the garden off to a good start. Volunteers are also needed to serve on the garden committee. Contact Sam Jones at 349-6119 or [simpleintn@yahoo.com](mailto:simpleintn@yahoo.com) for more information. In conjunction with the garden, the following seminars have been scheduled. MGs interested in presenting one of the topics should contact Sam Jones.

## UPCOMING GARDENING SEMINARS

All seminars will be held at 6:30 PM in the Carver Center

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| MAY 12    | What Do I Plant? Find out what seeds and plant varieties do well in NE TN, their sun and water requirements, & determine which are right for your plot |
| MAY 26    | How To Control Weeds In Your Garden  |
| JUNE 9    | Natural Insect Control Methods   |
| JUNE 23   | Compost Happens!   |
| JULY 14   | Summer Maintenance-looking ahead to fall   |
| JULY 28   | Cooking  |
| AUGUST 11 | Canning and Freezing   |



## GARDEN FEST SOUNDS GREAT!!

North East Tennessee Master Gardeners have been busily planning the annual Garden Fest to be held at the Appalachian Fair Grounds in Gray, TN on May 9 and 10, 2008 from 9:00 am to 5 pm. Admission is free and activities are scheduled to appeal to the whole family. Some of the events include:

- Kid's Workshop
- Farmer's Market
- Food – Saturday Only
- Silent Auction
- Blacksmith
- Gardening Seminars (Hourly Presentations)
- Plants and shrubs sale by local garden and nurseries centers
- Gardener's Market
- Music Entertainment
- Country Breakfast – Saturday 9–11 AM
- Petting Zoo
- Rope Maker

This is a great opportunity to buy a special Mother's Day Gift. Also, be prepared to "GO GREEN!" by bringing used garden & nursery plastic pots and plastic mini blinds to be recycled locally. For more Garden Fest information call Appalachian Fairgrounds at 423/477-3211 or [WWW.APPALACHIANFAIR.COM](http://WWW.APPALACHIANFAIR.COM)



## ETSU Arboretum Flowering Tree Evaluation

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

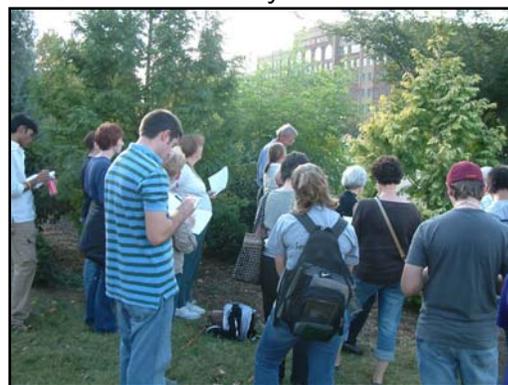
Orientation in Rm. 320, Brown Hall

The ETSU Arboretum needs your help! With grant support from the Harris Fund for Washington County, the ETSU Arboretum planted many unusual trees at various locations on the ETSU campus. These trees, planted in 2003-4, were chosen to test their suitability for planting in landscapes in upper East Tennessee. Now, four years hence, it is time to evaluate their performance. What you will do: You will serve as a good citizen...with opinions. No need for biology or botany background—just a love of trees and gardens. We'll tour portions of the campus Arboretum; each volunteer will use a standardized rating form to record their opinions on the appearance, health and attractiveness of each tree. Would you plant this tree in your garden here in northeastern Tennessee? You'll get to see pictures of each tree from its planting in 2003 and then we'll visit the tree as it is today.

Lunch will be provided during a break

**What will be the outcome of your participation:** You'll help provide a "baseline" of opinion about landscaping in our area. Arboretum staff will compile the results from this survey with another held last fall. Favorite trees will then be highlighted in a brochure presenting recommendations for our neighbors throughout the region.

**What will we be evaluating:** This survey will focus on 25 species of flowering deciduous trees planted on the ETSU campus.



Contact Dr. Frosty Levy ([levyf@etsu.edu](mailto:levyf@etsu.edu) ; 439-6926) to say you are coming and to reserve a lunch.



### Chris' Corner

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

With Redbud or Dogwood Winter over, summer will soon be here. I have received several questions about the potential damaging effects of the below freezing temperatures that occurred around April 14 and 15. Much of the concern stemming from the devastating effects from the 2007 Easter Freeze.

The difference is the temperatures were much colder being around 20 F and for four consecutive nights in 2007. These temperatures also followed a very early spring with several 80 F days in

March. This year we have had a more typical spring and the dip in temperatures has only been in the upper twenties – not enough to do much damage. Really, these dips in temperatures have not been that much out the ordinary for a typical “Redbud Winter.” We still have “Blackberry Winter” to go. Look for frost in early May.

With the gardening season getting into full swing, make sure you continue to document your MG hours. The kitchen calendar makes a great record! A list of the volunteer service and CEU opportunities is available online at [sullivan.tennessee.edu](http://sullivan.tennessee.edu).

Also, remember to publicize the 2008 Fall Master Gardener Program to your family, friends, and neighbors. The program will be on Tue. and Thur. evenings beginning in September.

Have you visited the Master Gardener Store?  
<https://web.dii.utk.edu/agstore/c-49-master-gardener.aspx>

## Monthly Plant Exchange Scheduled

Voice Magazine for Women is pleased to announce the Voice Monthly Plant Exchange. On the third Saturday of each month, Voice Magazine will sponsor a plant exchange, which is free to the public, at different venues in our area. Gardeners are encouraged to bring their plants to swap with other gardeners and to share their gardening experiences and tips. This promises to be a fun way to grow your garden!

The first Voice Monthly Plant Exchange will be on Saturday, May 17, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Winged Deer Park on the Bristol Highway in Johnson City, TN, at the historic Robert Young Cabin. Built in the early 1770's, the Robert Young Cabin is one of Johnson City's oldest dwellings and is a perfect setting for a plant exchange.

Gardeners are encouraged to label all plants they bring. Descriptions and sun/soil requirements are not necessary but would be helpful, especially for unusual plants.

For more information, contact Voice Magazine at 423-926-9983 or email Dena Bolton at [dena@voicemonthly.com](mailto:dena@voicemonthly.com).

## PRIVATE GARDENS OPEN FOR TOURS

Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Martin Dentistry invite gardening enthusiasts to *Saturday in the Gardens*, a day of tours featuring some of Kingsport's most beautiful private gardens, most of which have never before been open to the public. The garden tours will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2008. Two gardens will be featured in the morning from 9:00am to 11:00 am; the centerpiece garden and the bonus garden will be open from 11:00am to 2:00pm. During the afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, two gardens will be open to conclude the tours.

During the morning between 9:00am and 11:00am visit the Justis Garden at 1526 Linville Street and the Prumbs Garden at 1214 Oak Street. From 11:00am through 2:00pm tour the centerpiece Fales garden located at 1244 Watauga Street and the Harmon Garden at 1301 Linville Street. The luncheon, bonsai Tree exhibit and new perennials seminar will be held at the Centerpiece garden.

Finish the day with a visit to the Grimes Garden at 7 spring Creek Wynd and the Carson Garden at 2228 Hermitage Drive open from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Tickets are \$25.00 and include lunch with the first 100 tickets sold. Tickets are available at the following locations and at the Gardens on tour day at featured times: Kingsport Times-News Kiosk, Fort Henry Mall, upper level; Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce, 151 East Main Street; and Martin Dentistry, 1599 Fort Henry Drive.

All proceeds benefit Keep Kingsport Beautiful's education and beautification efforts. For more information, please call 392-8814 or email:

[clean@kingsportchamber.org](mailto:clean@kingsportchamber.org)

## 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@chartrtn.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@embarqmail.com

#### PROJECT

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

#### WEBSITE

Belinda Bridwell  
belindagb@comcast.net

#### HOSPITALITY

Kathy & Larry Wagner  
423 Wine Circle  
Blountville, TN 37617

#### PUBLICITY

Teresa Tittle  
(423) 963695  
teresa5937@hotmail.com

#### PROGRAM

Sandee Cook  
3660 West Pines Road  
Greeneville, TN 37745

#### NEWSLETTER

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

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

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



## Bid on a Rain Barrel at Rainy Day Brush-Off

What catches the rain and the eye of passersby? People living in Knox County will soon know the answer—an artistic rain barrel! This spring, the Water Quality Forum is kicking off its First to Annual Rainy Day Brush-Off event. Local artists have graciously volunteered to create beautiful works of art on 55-gallon rain barrels to help raise awareness about water conservation and water pollution.

Did you know that over 1,000 gallons of water runs off of the average roof (1,700 ft<sup>2</sup>) in every normal rain storm event? Just think what you could do with all of that **FREE WATER!**

Normally, when it rains, water runs off of your roof into your gutters and eventually into the storm drain system. Once it stops raining, that water is no longer available. Rain barrels are an ideal way

homeowners can conserve water by collecting rain water and then reusing it for watering flowers, gardens and lawns, particularly in this time of drought. Rain barrels are also a great way to help protect our local waterways from polluted storm water runoff. ([Find out more about rain barrels](#))

The auction will be held at Ijams Nature Center in Knoxville on May 19, 2008. Barrels will be on display there starting May 6<sup>th</sup>.

For more information contact Parci Gibson at [parci.gibson@knoxcounty.org](mailto:parci.gibson@knoxcounty.org) or 865-215-5861.

## UT Gardens Plant Sale Coming Soon

Friends of the UT Gardens 17th Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008. The sale will feature sun and shade annuals, perennials, shrubs, herbs, and a large assortment of conifers. There are too many plants to name all of the varieties that will be available. Unique garden plaques, decorative trellises, plant stakes, samples of outdoor garden art and small garden ornaments by Seasons Garden Accents will also be available.

Friends Members' Preview Sale is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. that morning. (Memberships may be purchased at the door). The sale opens to the public at 10:00 and runs until 2:00 pm. It will be held at the UT West (Agriculture) Campus at the Friendship Plaza of the UT Gardens.

There will be free parking and friendly volunteers to assist in selecting plants. All proceeds benefit the University of Tennessee Gardens.

For additional information: call the Friends at 865-525-4555 or

email [friendsoftheutgardens@utk.edu](mailto:friendsoftheutgardens@utk.edu) or

visit [www.friendsoftheutgardens.org](http://www.friendsoftheutgardens.org).

## MGs Needed for Women's Expo

NETMGA will be participating in the Women's Expo at Meadowview Convention Center on May 17, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. This event is similar to the farm expo and home & garden show. MGs will staff the usual information booth and will also sell plants. Proceeds will go to NETMGA.

If you are interested in working at the information booth, please contact Valerya Hyrne at [catsme-ow24@embarqmail.com](mailto:catsme-ow24@embarqmail.com). Workers are needed from 9:00a.m. until 11:30a.m. from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., or for the entire day. Volunteers are also needed to help set up. Donations of plants are needed for the plant sale. They should be labeled with the plant name and pertinent planting information.

## SPEAKERS NEEDED

for the topic: *Frugal Gardening... Things You Use in the Garden.*

- The talk will be given four times: Tuesday May 27, 1:30 - 3:00 PM and 3:15 - 4:45 PM  
Wednesday, May 28, 1:30 - 3:00 PM and 3:15 - 4:45 PM.
- There can be different speakers for the different days or times
- The content could take on several different focuses:
  - Mulches
  - Containers
  - Tools
  - Ways of propagating plants to save money
  - Gardening methods
  - Seed and plant sources
  - Frost protection devices to extend season

MGs willing to serve as a speaker should call Chris Ramsey at 279-2723 or 646-9043.



[dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/biosolids/compost.htm](http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/biosolids/compost.htm)

## NETMGA Meets May 20

The NETMGA general meeting will be held on May 20 at the Gray Community Center. This meeting's topic will be *Healthy and Happy Gardening*. The speaker will be Missy from "Back to Health" talking on the proper techniques for bending, twisting, and lifting as well as ergonomics, sleep, fluids, allergy and sinus issues. There will be something for everyone, so come learn how to reduce the aches and pains that come with gardening. The meeting will start with a social time from 6:00pm until 6:30pm. Members are asked to bring a snack to share.



Photo by Alice Russell

## BUTTERFLY GARDEN WORKDAY SET

The next workday for the **Butterfly Garden**, Greenfield, will be Thursday, May 22 at 9 AM . The Saturday group will meet on May 17th.

For more information contact Lois Bronson, 239-4285 or e-mail or [honeybee37@charter.net](mailto:honeybee37@charter.net)

## Win \$15,000 from GARDENER'S SUPPLY

Gardener's Supply Company is offering \$15,000 in awards of cash or merchandise to Garden Crusaders! This looks like a great opportunity for Master Gardeners! The award categories are: Urban Renewal, Education, Restoration, and Feeding the Hungry. The application deadline is June 15, 2008. For more information, visit [www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com). Click the community tab for the application. You may also contact Gardeners Supply @ 1-888-239-1553 or [crusader@gardeners.com](mailto:crusader@gardeners.com)

## Survey Projects Increased Vegetable Gardening

Editor's Note: This article was submitted by Hugh Conlon

Rising gas prices combined with increased food costs and a fluctuating economy are the likely causes of a significant new trend developing in the gardening market. As reported in the *2008 Early Spring Gardening Trends Research Report* just released by the Garden Writers Association Foundation (GWA), more consumers plan to purchase garden vegetable and fruit plants as part of their early spring gardening purchases.

In a national survey conducted last month, consumers were asked what types of garden-related spending they expect to do for spring plants. Lawn and grass expenditures take the lead (54%), followed by vegetable or fruit plants (39%), annual flowers (38%), trees and shrubs (35%), and perennial flowers (31%). When asked the same question in 2007, vegetable and fruit plants were fourth on the list of priorities for consumer spending plans. Perennial flowers that held the number two position in consumer spending expectations for 2007 are now in fifth place for 2008.

The *2008 Early Spring Gardening Trends Research Report* was conducted February 4-10 and covers consumer expectations and attitudes for activities and purchases planned for March through May. The survey was conducted by TechnoMetrica Market Intelligence, a national consumer polling organization, and statistically represents the attitudes of over 100 million households with an accuracy of 95% (+/- 3.1 percentage points).

The *2008 Early Spring Gardening Trends Research Report* is the first of four national consumer surveys planned by the GWA Foundation for 2008. It is now available online free to all GWA members. Visit <http://www.gardenwriters.org/Trends/IndexTrend.html> or go to the Garden Writers Association website at [www.gardenwriters.org](http://www.gardenwriters.org) <<http://www.gardenwriters.org>> and select the *Gardening Trends Research* tab. Choose 2008 reports and follow the online instructions. For further information, contact the GWA at 703.257.1032 or [info@gardenwriters.org](mailto:info@gardenwriters.org).

Information from University of Tennessee, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

# You Sapsucker!

## Yellow-bellied sapsuckers and the damage they cause.

*Alan Windham*

Each spring we receive branch samples from mature viburnum, rhododendron, dogwood, maple and other ornamental trees and shrubs showing characteristic damage from the yellow-bellied sapsucker. This is not a fictitious bird, but represents the only woodpecker in the Eastern United States that is completely migratory. The yellow-bellied sapsucker is a winter resident of Tennessee and may be observed at suet feeders as well as on woody plants.



meanderthal.typepad.com



www.birds.cornell.edu

The feeding habits of a sapsucker are quite interesting. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, “the yellow-bellied sapsucker makes two kinds of holes in trees to harvest sap. Round holes extend deep in the tree and are not enlarged. The sapsucker inserts its bill into the hole to probe for sap. Rectangular holes are shallower, and must be maintained continually for the sap to flow. The sapsucker licks the sap from the holes, and eats the cambium of the tree too. New holes usually are made in a line with old holes, or in a new line above the old.”

Yellow-bellied sapsuckers are considered a “keystone” species as other bird species take advantage of the wounds to consume sap. On sunny days in February, I have observed tit-mouse and chickadees feeding from the holes in sugar maple created by sapsuckers.

Discouraging feeding can be a challenge. Suggestions are covered in [UT Extension PB1624, Managing Nuisance Animals and their Damage Around the Home.](#)

For more information on the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, check out: [All About Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)



nationalzoo.si.edu



Master Gardeners and Interns working at the information booth at Exchange Place Spring Festival April 26, 2008. Above left: Intern Anne Moore and MG Judy Penley. Above right: Joy Moore talking with a visitor to the festival. Below left are MG's Judy Penley and Mary Wilken.



Connie and Larry Dean along with MG Intern Roscoe Harrison at Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon on April 19, 2008. They presented photos of the beautiful gardens they visited on their trip to England.



## LEARN ABOUT NATIVE GRASSES

The 6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium will be held in Columbia, SC. October 7 - 10, 2008. Plans are being made for an excellent array of plenary presenters; oral and poster presentations on research, outreach and experiences; hands-on applied workshops; and a set of field trips into the varied geography of the State.

The speakers will focus on many aspects of preserving, restoring and managing native grassland communities in the East. Those involved in research, Extension, government, agriculture, industry, or an environmental or gardening group should find their interest area well represented.

For more information about the Symposium, and a call for papers and other participation, see [www.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E\\_Native\\_Grass](http://www.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass) [http://www.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E\\_Native\\_Grass%20](http://www.clemson.edu/~bstrngr/E_Native_Grass%20) Instructions are provided for submitting title/summaries for oral and poster presentations. You may also contact Laurie E. Thompson at 864-656-3102.



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>

## 2008 DATES TO WATCH

Tuesday, May 6	Gardening in the Mountains: Culinary Herbs North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville 10:00 AM
<b>Fri - Sat May 9, 10</b>	<b>Garden Fest Gray, TN</b>
Saturday May 10	UT Gardens Plant Sale, Knoxville
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	<b>ETSU Arboretum Evaluation, Johnson City</b>
Saturday May 10	Dahlia Tuber Sale and Chrysanthemum Sale
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	<b>NC Arboretum, Asheville 10 AM to 4 PM</b>
Wednesday, May 14	Collections Walk: Wild Spring Perennials, NC Arboretum, Asheville 1 PM
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	<b>Women's Expo, Meadowview Convention Center</b>
Saturday, May 17	Plant Exchange Winged Deer Park, Johnson City
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	<b>Butterfly Garden Workday</b>
Saturday, May 17	Blue Ridge Hydrangea Society Annual Plant Sale: Hydrangea Fever NC Arboretum, Asheville 9 AM to 3 PM
<b>Monday, May 19</b>	<b>Rain Barrel Auction, Knoxville</b>
Tuesday May 20	NETMGA General Meeting, Gray
<b>Thursday May 22</b>	<b>Butterfly Garden Workday, Greenfield</b>
Saturday, June 21	Saturday in the Garden, Kingsport
<b>Tuesday, July 15</b>	<b>Bees - John Snively at NETMGA meeting, 6 PM</b>
October 7 - 10	6th Eastern Native Grass Symposium , Columbia, SC