

ANNUAL RECOGNITION DINNER HELD

The annual NETMGA recognition Dinner was held at the Gray Community Center on Nov. 6. A special guest for the evening was Beth Babbit, state coordinator for the UT master Gardener Program. Beth assisted Chris Ramsey in presenting Master Gardener pins and certificates to the members of the 2005 MG class who performed 40 hours of service and earned 8 hours of Continuing Education Credit. Many other members received pins and/or certificates for 3 or 5 years of continuing service or for earning 100 hours of service in the last year. Special recognition was given to Dennis Marshall for earning the most volunteer hours this year.

New officers for the 2007 year were elected at the meeting. They include:

Valerya Hyrne, President;
Sandee Cook, Vice President;
Lisa Bradley, Secretary;
Connie Dean, Treasurer and
Gwen Duncan, Certification Officer.

Congratulations to all. Also at the meeting the revised by-laws were presented and approved.

NETMGA—A BIG WINNER IN JACKSON

Congratulations to all those involved in the NETMGA Website! At the Master Gardening Leadership Retreat, held recently in Jackson, **our local NETMGA Website was voted #1 in the State! Mike Snapp**, attended the retreat and entered our website into competition with the other counties in attendance! **Belinda Bridwell** is responsible for the design and layout and **Charlene McGough** contributed photographs from our Healing Garden. This is a fantastic achievement and we couldn't be more proud! A big round of applause to all of you! Your hard work has definitely paid off! Check out our winning website at <http://netmga.net> and if you need the conference logo, Belinda can provide it for you in color or black/white!

And staying in the winner's circle, our very own **MASTER GARDENER THYMES** came in 2nd place in the newsletter competition (and we heard the margin was really close)! **Kathy Francescon** and **Jean Green** are co-editors and **Junella McClellan** is the (behind the scenes) design expert. It is her skill and creativity that are the magic behind our colorful and eye-catching editions! And a special thank you goes out to **Ellen Hilderbrand**, our NETMGA President. She assisted tremendously with the editing of our winning Sept/Oct edition.

BRING A LUNCH AND BRING A FRIEND

UT Extension Service and Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners are sponsoring a Lunch Gardening Program on Mondays and Wednesdays this fall. The classes will meet on October 30, November 1, November 6, and November 8 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Kingsport Civic Auditorium, 1550 Fort Henry Dr., Kingsport, TN. There is no charge. Interested persons may attend one class or all of them.

Topics will include:

10 Most Unwanted Weeds in Your Yard

What to Plant and Where

Managing Unwanted Critters in Landscapes

Topic to be determined by participants

Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the program! Drinks will be provided

Call 423-279-2723 for more information.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas In the Country will be held Saturday, December 2 from 10 - 3, and Sunday, December 3 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 re-enactment of the Battle of Kingsport (December 1864), and creativity sessions for all ages. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony is at 4:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information or to pre-register for workshops, please call 423-288-6071.

IDENTIFY KINGSPORT'S TREES

Master Gardener Mike May is working with "Keep Kingsport Beautiful" and the City of Kingsport Tree Committee to conduct an inventory of the approximately 9,000 trees inside the city. The inventory will be entered into a database and utilized to monitor the number, types, condition, etc. of trees inside the city limits.

Initial plans call for a 4-hour training session on Feb. 3, 2007. Then, three person teams will proceed to conduct the inventory in 11 designated territories inside the city beginning in February and ending in May 2007.

Approximately 75 volunteers will be needed to conduct the survey. This is an ideal MG project and it has been submitted for approval for 4 CEU and whatever service hours are performed.

If you are interested in participating or if you have questions, contact Mike May at 423-246-2700.



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e-mail UPDATES

The newsletter staff and Membership Committee Chair, Sebrina Bader, work constantly to keep the NETMGA Member List updated. To cut down on sending out so many updates (fewer reprints for everyone), we are asking you to please make the following changes to your current copy.

Lou Ann Moore: tnlam@aol.com
 Carol Harr: FantasyLady8@msn.com
 William Grigsby: wgrigs@earthlink.net
 Debbie Mysinger: mysinger1@earthlink.net
 Charles Chandley: cwarren40@earthlink.net
 Jim and Lois Bronson honeybee37@charter.net

STAY "IN THE KNOW" WITH EASE

Tennessee Master Gardener has launched a new listserve. This is a computerized listing of all newsletters, activities, events, opportunities and information related to the Tennessee Master Gardener Program. The new listserve will replace the "What's Up Network." The address is <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/tmq.html>

This is not a discussion group and replies cannot be posted. However, if you have appropriate Master Gardener announcements or newsletter items please forward them to ebabbit@utk.edu to be shared with the state group.

All Master Gardeners in the state have had their e-mail addresses added to this list. If you do not wish to receive Master Gardener program information or would like to change your email address please click on the link at the bottom of the page, then click on the Join or Leave button to edit your information. If you did not receive a recent email from the listserve, your email address on the TMG website (MG Resources) may be incorrect. To change your address contact Beth Babbit. (ebabbit@utk.edu)

BUDS, CALL YOUR SPROUTS

Master gardeners who volunteered to be Buds for this year's new class members should be sure to contact their sprouts. The new MG interns are preparing for their test and may need a little extra advice! If you have any questions contact Lois Bronson at 239-4285 or honeybee@copper.net

"SCHOOL DAYS" HELD AT APPY FAIRGROUNDS

On August 22-23-24, several Master Gardeners were busy conducting talks and directing tours through the "Herb Garden" at the Appalachian Fairgrounds with over 1500 elementary students from the Tri-Cities area in attendance!

A big thank you goes out to Sandee Cook, Valerya Hyrne, Lisa Jones, Barbara Voight, Johnda Burdette, Lisa Bradley, and Burch Bullock for giving so generously their time and attention (in the heat of the day) to present this program to help educate our youth about herbs and plants and how useful they are to us.

The talks included an introduction to herbs, along with their history and usage, from ancient Egypt to modern times. The tours through the garden were also a big hit as the students were able to see, touch, and smell the herbs. The feedback from the students has been very positive! Many thanks to everyone involved for enlightening and successful "school days" program!

MGs WIN BIG AT APPY FAIR

Congratulations to Master Gardeners **Judy Penley, Lisa Bradley** and **Valerya Hyrne** who were big winners at this year's Appalachian Fair. Judy won 150 ribbons at this year's event in such categories as plants, vegetables, potted plants, cut flowers, crafts, canned goods, and candy. In addition to the ribbons she also won \$500.00.

Lisa won first place in the KC Masterpiece bar-b-que. She also won or placed in the following categories: Fleishman's Yeast, appetizers and party foods, cut flower, creative cooking, canning, jewelry and flowers for a total of 72 ribbons.

Valerya won first place ribbons for canned goods, floral, and horticulture. She also won second and third place ribbons in those categories and for needlework. Congratulations to these multi-talented Master Gardeners.

In addition, several Master Gardeners were interviewed by the "Erwin Record" on the last day of the fair. The article provided publicity for the many projects maintained by Master Gardeners on the Fairgrounds.

REFLECTING ON A FAMILY TRADITION...

By Valerya Hyrne

Valerya Hyrne reflects on her winnings at the Appalachian Fair

Some of us who entered the fair were carrying on a tradition of entering things in local, regional, and state fairs. My grandmother, until Sept 1986, (before she passed away in Dec 1986) entered quilts, jams and jellies, cakes, biscuits, plants and flowers, in the Lewis County (Kentucky) School Fair (this was the county fair in that region of KY) every September as long as I could remember. She always came home with some kind of ribbons. I now have many of those - a really valuable inheritance. But my best memories are of her and the other members of her homemakers club, many of whom are gone now too, going through the fair and looking at and comparing all of their entries in the fair.

Those are memories you always cherish.



Valerya's Red Zebra Tomatoes, Kentucky Wonder Pole Beans, Green & White Spider Plant



Her Rabbit's Foot Fern, Variegated Ivy, and Blueberry Jam entries at the Fair

Letter from the President....

This has been a banner year for our NETMGA. It has been my pleasure to serve as your President for 2006. Members of the Executive Board have worked long and hard to accomplish our goals this year. We have the honor of hosting the '07 Tennessee State MG Conference next June in Kingsport at the MeadowView and members have served on various planning committees for that event. From what is decided at this point in time, I already have full confidence that our conference will set the bar very high for those that follow. Hold on to your hats, we are going to have an outstanding MG event!

At the recent MG Leadership Conference in Jackson, our website was voted #1 by the attendees and our newsletter voted #2! Congratulations to Belinda Bridwell, Michael Snapp, Jean Green, Kathy Francescon and Junella McClellan for all their efforts which have made our communications worthy of state-wide recognition. NETMGA is rapidly becoming a pace-setting group in our State after only being formally organized since 2003.

I hope to see everyone at our upcoming members meeting November 6th in Gray...we will elect new officers, vote on updated by-laws and enjoy our Recognition Dinner. It is mostly an evening for fellowship, so make every effort to come out and meet some new gardening friends.

Thanks again for a most interesting and challenging year in our NETMGA history.

Ellen

2006 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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2006 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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REGISTER NOW FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Registration is now open for the International Master Gardener Conference to be held May 2-5, 2007 in Little Rock, Arkansas. To register go to <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/>. Click on "Registration Information."

Early registration runs until December 31, 2006 and the final registration deadline is April 1, 2007. Contact Janet B. Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist at jcarson@uaex.edu or by phone at 501-671-2174 for more information.

BE "GREEN" – RECYCLE!!

Want to save the planet, help local schools, local girl scouts, local children and the Ronald MacDonald House? Save the following items:

- Empty Ink-jet printer cartridges. (Local Girl Scouts will send them to a company that refills them for the secondary ink cartridge market.)
- Metal pop-tops from soda, soup and other cans. (Ronald MacDonald House in JCY remits them for cash.)
- Campbell Product labels (UPC), Post "Box Tops for Education" labels, and Food City receipts. (These help all area schools earn educational materials.)
- Flower Bulbs. (They will be distributed among Girl Scout Troops, Special Needs Classrooms, and After School Care Children for Fall Planting!

Bring any or all of these items to the Nov. 6 Recognition Dinner and give them to Liz Blakely. Questions? Call Liz at 349-5611 or email: lizblakely@yahoo.com

ENTER THE MG LOGO AND SLOGAN CONTEST

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007. As part of that celebration all Master Gardeners are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity.

The new logo and slogan will be used on the website to demonstrate **national collaboration** and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. This new logo will be used as a national identifier and will not replace local/state logos that are already in place.

If you are interested in submitting a design or slogan, contact Beth Babbit at ebabbit@utk.edu.

CHECK OUT THE WEB SITES:

The Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association now has a website.

Check out <http://netmga.net>.

The 2007 Tennessee Master Gardener Conference also has a website. Visit it at

<http://tnmgc2007.net>



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FROM THE EDITORS

It is amazing to realize that Kathy and I have just finished our first year as co-editors of the Master Gardener Thymes. When we volunteered (as Master Gardener Interns) to take on this "opportunity" we really didn't know what to expect. A year later we are delighted to report that it has been lots of fun. We really want to thank everyone who makes the newsletter work: Junella McClellan who does all the design and layout; Matthew Mills, the previous editor who got us off to a good start; Ellen Hildebrand who has walked with us through this first year, even editing the Sept/Oct edition. Mostly we want to thank all the local Master Gardeners who continue to send us news and articles. It is so much fun to see what "pops up" in our e-mail boxes around the 20th of the month. Keep the news coming.

Another group of folks has put in a lot of hard work this year, and we want to recognize them and thank them, too. The NETMGA officers for this year have done an outstanding job. Thanks to Ellen Hildebrand, President; Gwyn Duncan, Vice President; Lisa Bradley, Secretary; Lois Bronson, Treasurer; and Juana Quinones, Certification Officer. Also, thanks to the committee chairs: Sabrina Bader, Membership; Dennis Marshall, Projects; Connie Dean, Programs; and Jan Jones, Refreshments.

It's been a full and exciting year for East Tennessee Master Gardeners - let's keep it up!

More Photos from the Fair



Horticulture Display Cart at 2006 Appalachian Fair



Japanese Garden at Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray

Thanks to all who contribute articles to Master Gardener Thymes. Please submit your articles for the Jan / Feb 2007 issue by December 20.



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DATES TO WATCH

Nov. 8, 2006	Lunch Gardening Class 12:00–1:00	Kingsport Civic Auditorium
Dec 2-3, 2006	Christmas in the Country	Exchange Place, Kingsport
Jan 19-21, 2007	Farm Expo (Contact Doug Helton)	Meadowview Conference Center
March 9–11, 2007	Philadelphia Flower Show	



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