

Official Publication



Master Gardener Thymes

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LEARN NEW WAYS TO INSTALL HARDSCAPES

Local contractor Neal Ragan will present a talk on ***EARTHSCAPES: HOMEOWNER-FRIENDLY AND ECO-FRIENDLY*** at the Johnson City Power Board on Thursday, Nov. 18, 2010 at 7:00 PM.

Participants will learn how to plan for and finish their own hardscape or landscape project using phases to suit every time frame and budget. Neal will discuss new products and techniques for enhancing the landscapes around your home using walkways, walls, and other decorative hardscapes. He will show before, after, and in-between photos of several projects, large and small.



Participants will learn about eco-friendly techniques, materials, and permeable products. Neal will talk about rain gardens and other ways of moving water around and away from difficult areas. He will also recommend where to purchase many of these products.

Neal is the owner of Neal Ragan Construction in Damascus VA, a hardscape landscaping company. He specializes in construction of segmental retaining walls, installing decorative concrete pavers, landscape lighting, and outdoor living products. Neal grew up in the East Tennessee/ Southwest VA area and has worked with the people here for over 35 years. Several of his recent projects have been predominately green.

CELEBRATE THE ACHEIVEMENTS OF 2010!

Plan now to attend the final NETMGA meeting of 2010 on Monday, November 29 at Appalachian Fairground Building No. 1. The program will be a series of reports on all of the current MG Projects: ***The Achievements of 2010.***

Come and hear how fellow Master Gardeners have impacted the community with their gardening skills. Learn what opportunities are in the works for 2011. One CEU will be awarded to all those in attendance.

Food and fellowship will start at 6:00. The program will start at 6:30. Guests are always welcome.

IT'S ELECTION TIME BE SURE TO VOTE

An outstanding group of candidates has agreed to run for election for the 2011 NETMGA year. Please show your support and vote for them or a write-in nomination of your choice. Send your votes to Johnny Suthers at jchemie@aol.com or by letter to Johnny Suthers 4416 Fieldstone Drive, Kingsport, TN 37664. The polls will be closed on November 15 and the results will be announced at the November meeting.

Ballot for 2011 Officers NETMGA

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>
Blinda Anderson	Karen Drought
<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
Kathy Waldo	Pat Mazurkiexicz
<u>Website</u>	<u>Projects</u>
Carl Voigt	Johnny Suthers
<u>Program</u>	
Accepting Volunteer	

Christmas in the Country

Christmas In the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, December 4, from 10 am - 4:00 pm. The celebration features the sale of fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, traditional foods and folk arts, and demonstrations of December activities on the mid-19th century farm. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire begins at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. For more information or to register for workshops, call 423-288-6071.

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help staff a table with decorations from nature. To volunteer contact Sue Cadwallader at 288-6071 or cadwallader@embarqmail.com.

MAKE YOUR OWN WREATH AT EXCHANGE PLACE

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreath Making Workshop on Friday, December 10, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. With inspiration and guidance from Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Native Habitat Nursery and Herbarry, 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 December 7. Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) For more information call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail at ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.





Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
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This has been another great year for the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Program. By far the fastest year I have ever experienced. Seems like it was just yesterday we were anticipating spring. Partly because I am another year older, but also because each of you are doing such a great job of contributing to our local MG program that it keeps me busy just keeping up with you. Projects, educational programs, NETMGA association meetings, and quality relationships mean there is always

something new and challenging when working with the Master Gardener program.

This year is the 100th Anniversary of UT Extension. In case you hadn't heard, those MGs who contribute 100 volunteer "ACT" hours will receive a special commemorative pin. I would like to present these pins at the next NETMGA membership meeting. If you are close to the 100 hour requirement, please complete and submit those hours ASAP. I will be ordering these pins by the second week of November.

I also wanted to remind you that the hours deadline has been changed to align with the state deadline. Please enter ACT hours and CEUs NO LATER THAN DEC. 31, 2010. The recognition program will be held at the NETMGA membership meeting in early February.

MAKE THE MOST OF COLD WEATHER ATTEND WINTER SCHOOL

The annual Master Gardener Winter School will be held in Murfreesboro, Tennessee February 24-26, 2011. This year's topic is ***Sustainable Solutions***.

Winter School is open to all Master Gardeners, Extension Personnel and Master Gardener Interns. Two tracks are available, one in leadership and the other in education.

MGs and interns interested in attending should make reservations right away. Rooms are at a premium as other events are scheduled in Murfreesboro at the same time. Some available hotels are: Baysmont (1-615-896-1172) and Clarion Inn and Suites (1-615-896-8738.) Clarion may also be reached through this link: <http://www.clarionhotel.com/hotel-murfreesboro-tennessee-TN484>.

Winter School is a wonderful opportunity to learn new skills, to meet other MGs and to earn lots of CEUs. Contact Doug Hilton at 239-9433 for more information.

ALL ABOARD

THE HOLIDAY EXPRESS AT UT GARDENS



UT Gardens and Mark Fuhrman are presenting the Holiday Express Model Train Exhibit again this year. Twelve garden scale model trains will be included, along with thousands of lights, hundreds of miniature buildings, and tiny landscapes with rivers and waterfalls.

The Holiday Express opens on the Wed. before Thanksgiving and remains open on the weekends through Christmas. The cost is \$5.00 per person with children 4 and under admitted free. Visit the UT Gardens web site for exact hours.

UT GARDENS OFFER WREATH MAKING CLASS

The UT Gardens in Knoxville will offer a Christmas Wreath Making class on Tuesday Nov. 30 and Wed. Dec 1 Knoxville. Each class meets at 10:00 AM. To register contact UT gardens. Classes are filling quickly.





“IN THE SPIRIT OF CLEAN WATER” Upper Nolichucky Starts Watershed Alliance

Submitted by Brenda Warner

The Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance (UNWA) is a newly formed group that is emphasizing the importance of water quality in our region. The area that is covered by this organization extends from Unicoi County into Washington County, including the town of Jonesborough.

In line with the NETMGA Waterwise Landscaping Project at the Appalachian Fairgrounds and the “Yards to Neighbors” Program of Tennessee Master Gardeners, UNWA will focus on education and outreach to the public.

A steering committee is in place to draft by-laws in order to create a non-profit organization. An event took place in the Town of Unicoi – Drains to Streams – at the end of September in partnership with the Unicoi County 4-H and the Appalachian RC & D.

If you happen to live in this area or simply have an interest in watershed management please join this group by calling 423-735-4441 x 4, the Appalachian RC & D in Jonesborough and simply request to be added to the mailing list.

ATTEND A “WILD AND WONDERFUL” CONFERENCE IN WVA

Local MGs have almost a year to make plans to attend the International Master Gardener Conference in Charleston, West Virginia. This outstanding event will be held October 11-14, 2011 and is sponsored by the West Virginia Master Gardener Association and West Virginia Extension Service.



In keeping with the state motto, the theme for the conference is ***Color It Green In A Wild and Wonderful Way***. MGs are encouraged to attend and to bring friends and relatives.

If at least thirty people wish to attend, a block of rooms can be reserved and bus transportation can be arranged. Commitments must be made by Dec. 1, 2010 for those wishing to attend. Contact Gail Shaver at 423-323-1817 or Chris Ramsey at 423-279-2723 for more information or to sign up.

PROGRAMS SCHEDULED AT NC ARBORETUM

The following programs are scheduled during November and December at the NC Arboretum in Asheville, NC. Visit their web site for complete details.

Sat. Nov. 6, Sun Nov. 7	Grafting Woody Ornamentals (2 day workshop)
Sat, Nov. 6, 13, 20	Beginning Beekeeping (3 week series)
Sat. Nov. 13	Introduction to Lichens
Sat. Nov. 20	Advanced Lichens
Tues. Nov. 30	Holiday Evergreen Wreaths
Wed. Dec 1	Holiday Evergreen Wreaths
Wed. Dec. 8	Intermediate Pruning Primer

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Bradford Pear storm victim
Photo by Carolyn Cope

The Joyful Gardener

The Bradford Pear Tree Dilemma

By Jeanne Cope

Good Morning Gardeners! We all love our Bradford pear Trees, mature at ten to 15 years, shaped like a pear, deep burgundy fall leaves, lovely spring blooms, so much to like. A sudden windstorm and they split in half or blow over in a hard rain, and we are sad to lose our tree.

Such happened to Carolyn, our Son's delightful wife. The entire neighborhood lost about ten Bradfords that stormy day several months ago. Workers removed the mess, leaving the stump about three feet tall. Carolyn said so many people stopped to look at the remains of the tree she decided they should have something to smile about when staring at the sight. Thus began the transformation of the remaining tree trunk into a giant smiling face. The hat is an old abandoned bird nest and the colors are the layers of wood with the bark removed. With no paint used on the artwork, the tree man and his chainsaw did the carving. Sure enough, passerbys smile back at the face on the tree trunk. A sense of humor is wonderful!

The Cleveland pear is not as prone to splitting and blowing over. Other attractive and sturdy small trees exist as replacements. Suggestions include American Yellowwood, Forest Pansy Red Bud, Stewartia, Kousa Dogwood, Flowering Crab Apple and others with their special charms. Carolyn is now considering the variety of the new tree she will plant this fall.

About 14 years ago, we planted four fast-growing Bradford pear trees in a long row interspersed with forsythia. Because they bloomed at the same time, the yellow forsythia and the white pear blooms were beautiful each spring. Now the clock has ticked and it is time to replace them. Our plans for these four trees are to take them down, beginning this fall. The replacements are crepe myrtles, growing 15-25 feet tall, with long lasting blooms and lovely mottled bark for winter interest. They will provide more peace of mind than the Bradford pears.

Such is the life of the gardener and landscaper, do we plant for eternity, or for pleasure now? Happy Gardening Everyone!

Jeanne Cope is a Garden Writer and UT Master Gardener



Gardening with Alpacas

Submitted by Brenda Warner

On a visit to Maple Valley Alpaca Farm in Jonesborough, TN I discovered a wondrous thing – the world of Alpaca beans! According to a publication, “Local gardeners find the alpaca’s rich fertilizer perfect for growing fruits and vegetables”.

Why? Alpaca manure is has a high level of nitrogen and potassium and a low phosphorous level. Since there is a lower organic matter content than other types of manure, Alpaca “beans” may be applied directly on an area that is already planted. (Other types of manures can easily burn the seedlings and/or plants.) The Alpaca manure also improves the soil texture and water holding capacity.

Another method of using Alpaca beans for fertilizer is to brew Alpaca Bean Tea for seedlings. Mix 1/3 cup alpaca beans with 2/3 cup of water and allow to sit for 3 hours to overnight. Then apply. There will be an amazing difference in the seedlings within 24 hours.

Alpaca manure may be obtained at any local alpaca farm. There are plenty in Northeast Tennessee. Just google “Alpaca farms + Northeast Tennessee” to have quite a list. The farm that I visited is the Maple Valley Farm Alpacas, 466 Mayberry Rd. Jonesborough, TN. This farm is run by Sylvia Teague and Frank Walters. 423-791-3397.





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2010 DATES TO WATCH

Nov 15	Last day for NETMGA elections
Nov 18	Talk on Hardscapes by Neal Ragan, JC Power Board
Nov 29	NETMGA Meeting at Appalachian Fair Grounds
Dec 1	Registration Deadline for W VA International Conference
Dec 4	Christmas in the Country, Exchange Place
Dec 4	Children's Tree Planting, Warrior's Path State Park
Dec 10	Wreath Making Workshop at Exchange Place
Dec 31	Last day to enter MG service hours and CEUs

2011 DATES TO WATCH

Jan 15	Winter Gardening Seminar - Warrior's Path State Park
Feb 24 - 26	Winter School, Murfreesboro