

Abingdon Garden Faire

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The Garden Faire in Abingdon is the event that kicks off Spring for our region. It will be held on Friday, April 19 from 9:30-6 PM and Saturday April 20, 2024, 9:30- 4:00 PM at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA.

This is the 25th year that Garden Faire has been presented by the Washington County Virginia Master Gardeners. A host of local and out of town vendors present a gardener's shopping paradise with perennials, annuals, trees, native and heirloom plants, yard art, garden tools and much more. Tool sharpening is offered for small hand tools.

Students from local high schools are competing in a container garden contest. Representatives from Virginia Highlands Community College and Virginia Tech will present educational opportunities and fields of study available to local students.

The proceeds from Garden Faire fund two educational scholarships and over thirty community projects in the region. An endowed scholarship at Virginia Tech benefits students from Washington, Russell, and Smyth counties and the City of Bristol Virginia. Another Master Gardeners scholarship is awarded bi-annually to a horticultural student at Virginia Highlands Community College

Educational programs will be presented each day. Topics range from native plants, reclamation of mining sites, invasive plants and more. A Saturday morning class will focus on young gardeners. Free rooted cuttings will be given to gardeners under 18 who are accompanied by an adult. Workshops being offered include Make and Take Rain Barrels, Floral Design and Topiary. Members of Highlands Beekeepers Association will showcase live bees and explain the critical role bees play in food production.

Come and spend the day shopping and attending the many classes. Grab a quick coffee creation at Early Bird Coffee or have lunch prepared by Ladybug Café and Cakery. Shop 'til you drop in the Garden Market Place and Master Gardener volunteers will assist with carry out services.

Enter to win a \$125 shopping spree each day.

Garden Faire is totally staffed by Master Gardeners and Master Gardener trainees. Trainees must complete 50 hours of horticultural classes and then contribute 50 hours of community volunteer service to be awarded the status of Master Gardener. In addition to working in public gardening projects, Master Gardeners also participate in several horticultural community education outreach programs. For more information, go to www.gardenfaire.net or see us on Facebook: Washington County VA Master Gardeners.