

## **Abingdon Garden Faire**

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The Abingdon Garden Faire will be held Friday, April 11 from 9:30-6 PM and Saturday April 12, 2025, 9:30-4:00 PM at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, VA. This is the 26th year the Washington County Virginia Master Gardeners have presented Garden Faire. A host of local and out of town vendors provide 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.

Container gardens from local high school horticulture departments will be on display and available for purchase through a silent auction. Everyone may register to win a \$125 shopping spree in the garden marketplace with drawings on both Friday and Saturday.

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

Garden Faire features two full days of classes and workshops. Topics range from Plants Rated R for Reliability to Container Gardens. Two botanical gardens of this region will be highlighted – Hahn Gardens at Virginia Tech and The North Carolina Arboretum. Garden Gallivants of Knoxville will showcase tours of regional and national gardens.

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 Cyanotypes – Making Art from Your Garden, Make and Take Rain Barrels, Floral Design and Topiary. Members of Highlands Beekeepers Association will showcase live bees and explain the role honeybees play in food production. The Seed Saving Library will be giving away free seed packets.

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

Garden Faire is totally staffed by volunteer Master Gardeners and trainees. Trainees must complete 50 hours of horticultural classes and then contribute 50 hours of community volunteer service to become a 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](http://www.gardenfaire.net) or see us on Facebook: Washington County VA Master Gardeners.