

the SCOOP



GARDENING HINTS THAT WORK



Take Note

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Southern Region Master Gardener Conference

By: K. Miller

The Southern Region Master Gardener Conference held June 8-11, 2006 at the convention center in Chattanooga Tennessee was a great success. The Conference began Thursday, June 8, with people checking in from as far away as Maine and Oklahoma as well as the Southern Region states. An approximate total of 250-260 people were in attendance.

Many participating Master Gardener groups from represented states brought items for the silent auction. There were a total of 101 items that were put into the auction, with 100 of them receiving bids. The money collected from the bids went to the State Master Gardener Endowment.

Dinner Thursday evening was held on the veranda of the Tennessee Aquariums. It was preceded by tours of both aquariums as part of the registration package for participants. After dinner we were welcomed by both the city mayor of Chattanooga as well as the Hamilton County mayor.

Class sessions and the silent auction began Saturday morning. Along with the class sessions, many of the attendees went back to the aquarium area to help plant a new butterfly garden with over 400 plants. All attending the classes said that they were very informational

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MASTER GARDENERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY WEBSITE



The website for the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County is up and running. Our thanks go to B. Ellis for his hard work in getting the site operational.

The website may be reached by the following addresses and/or links.

<http://www.mastergardeners-rc.org>

OR

Through the University of Tennessee:

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

click on *Links*, then click on *Rutherford* which will

Southeastern Region Conference

(continued from page 1)

and enjoyable. Lunch Saturday was topped off with a talk from Carol Reese of UT on “Brazen Picks for the Rowdy Gardener.”

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by a vendor expo and talks from Joe Lamp’l of DIY network and other garden speakers including Chris Mahoney speaking on how to attract and keep hummingbirds in your garden.

The silent auction ended Saturday at 3:00 PM. Though the totals are not complete at this time it appears that approximately \$1,750 was raised. Saturday evening dinner began with steaks, and the evening ended with an ice cream social and networking time for all.

Sunday concluded the conference with tours of the local area including local gardens as well as the usual tourist destinations. The early responses from those attending have been very gratifying and lavished much praise on the Hamilton County Master Gardeners who hosted the conference and was well deserved. Ω

Minutes of Meeting—June 19, 2006

Submitted by B. Waites for A. Blanton, Secretary

Master Gardeners of Rutherford County met at the AgriPark on Monday, June 19, 2006 at 6:30 pm. Refreshments were served by the Ellises and the D. Richardsons.

President J. Smith called the meeting to order at 7:15. Treasurer E. Arnold gave the Treasurer’s Report. President Smith said that Agent Tuggle is now in Hawaii with family and will be here for the next meeting.

Reports:

W. Anderson reported on the work that needs to be done at the AgriPark on June 24th.

B. Ellis said the MG web site is up and running.

E. Arnold said the MG shirts will be in next month.

Review of bylaws has been delayed.

W. Richardson is in charge of the Fall Extravaganza.

K. Smith needs articles for the newsletter.

New call lists have been given to B. Waites, S.Dallas and B.Jones.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS for 2006

- ❖ **Phone:** Waites, Chair; Dallas, B.Jones, S. Lehto
- ❖ **Community Projects:** Anderson, Chair;
- ❖ **Speakers’ Bureau:** Richardson, Chair
- ❖ **Refreshments:** Fladung, Hollingsworth, Dill
- ❖ **Special Events:** B. Fedorowicz
- ❖ **Historian:** McCray
- ❖ **Public Relations:** Miller
- ❖ **Web Site Coordinator:** Ellis
- ❖ **Newsletter:** K. Smith, Editor

PROJECTS 2006 Volunteers Needed

1. Garden Basics 2007
2. Fall Extravaganza 2007
3. Brown Bag
4. Diagnostic Clinics
5. Senior Citizen Center
6. Demonstration Garden
7. Bellwood Elementary School Discovery Garden
8. Grape Vines at Lane Agri-Park
9. Orchard at Lane Agri-Park
10. Rain Garden at MTSU
11. Sam Davis Home in Smyrna

LANDSCAPE DESIGN - Family Needs

Fifth In A Series

By: J. Smith, President

After you have made a complete inventory and analysis of your subject site, you will need to determine what your family will need in your landscape design. To properly give adequate consideration, the following is a partial list of items that should be given consideration.

- ◆ Pets—how many & species
- ◆ Special outdoor cooking areas
- ◆ Special recreation areas
- ◆ Desire to attract wildlife
- ◆ Who will maintain site
- ◆ Types of gardens, ponds, fountains, etc.
- ◆ Size & type of outdoor entertaining
- ◆ Lawnmower, RV, boat storage
- ◆ Amount of money available

The two most important factors in the above list are 1) who will maintain the site and 2) what will it cost to design, buy plant materials, and install the selected plant materials. It should be obvious if

an expensive complicated design is developed that will consume large amounts of time to maintain, and maintenance time is limited without having to employ others to complete the work, changes should be made. If the cost to design, buy materials and install is not immediately available, that becomes a limiting factor. However, if the design can be implemented over a period of time, and the cost spread over a set number of years, then circumstances have again changed.

Access to the home should be given a primary consideration. Three-foot wide walks allow people to walk single file only. Four to five-foot wide walks allow people to walk comfortably to the front entry.

Landscape lighting has become so inexpensive that it should be given consideration to accent certain features, allow strangers to easily approach the entry after

dark. Lighting will also discourage uninvited intruders. Consideration should be given for on-site parking of children's autos, bikes, etc. Other vehicles such as RV's, boats, lawnmowers, campers, trailers, and sometimes special guest parking should be given consideration.

Does the family enjoy special outdoor sports and games such as basketball, tennis, and swimming? Do they enjoy having guests over for outdoor cooking? If so, decks, patios, tables, chairs, grills and the access to electricity and water must be given consideration. Are there small children or handicapped persons that should be considered? All these factors should be considered in the design.

Always design so areas will flow into other areas. Sharp delineations are unattractive and can lead to problems moving from one location to another. Ω

See Page 4

CONTAINER GARDENING

Planting annuals, perennials or even shrubs and small trees in containers can be ...

See page 7

GARDENING TIPS THAT WORK

*for Master Gardeners of Rutherford County.
Please send your gardening tips to the editor.*

Using Planted Containers as Accent Pieces

by D. Richardson

Planting annuals, perennials or even shrubs and small trees in containers can be a useful way of providing color and interest to patios and various areas of the garden. This provides an effective means of spicing up the landscape. One needs to be concerned with three things:

1. The selection of containers
2. The selection of plant materials and establishing the planted containers
3. Maintenance of the planted containers

First – The Container

Containers come in a myriad of shapes and colors as well as being constructed of various materials, (i.e. ultra light materials vs. clay, concrete, cast iron or ceramic material). These vary tremendously by weight and some may need to be protected from freezing temperatures. (i.e. clay and perhaps ceramic).

Containers should have drainage holes of an adequate size drilled through the bottom to avoid water-logged conditions. I personally like to put 1-2 inches of large size gravel in the bottom of my containers to encourage drainage. The gravel/stone (1-2 inches diameter pieces) are then covered with a piece of landscape cloth to try to keep the potting soil separate from the gravel. Although I have not tried them, I have heard of people successfully using “packaging peanuts” which would be lighter in weight than coarse gravel.

Various types of potting media (soil) are readily available commercially. I prefer to use basic potting soil without supplements

(i.e. fertilizers and materials to hold and release moisture). I do however, add slow release fertilizer when I plant the containers.

See examples of
Richardson's planted
containers on page 5

Second – Selection of Plant Material

A wide variety of plant materials can be used in containers. I use containers for splashes of color and as a means to make ‘over-wintering’ tender plants feasible.

To create colorful-pleasing containers, one should consider:

1. Plant height and spreading characteristics
2. Color of foliage and blooms
3. Texture
4. Bloom season

For larger containers (18-30 inch diameter), I like to use some very tall plants placed in the center or rear-center of the container, then surround these with some medium height material and finish with some ‘spreaders’ that will cascade over the container edge. Examples of tall plants that are useful include: Persian shield, spikes, annual purple fountain grass, various coleus. Examples of medium size plants that work for me include: Pentas and angelona and various ferns; cascading material includes mini petunias, bacopa and creeping jenny. Sweet potato vines are also popular

but I find that they grow too vigorously.

Regarding color, decide whether you wish to use contrasting colors (colors that tend to be on opposite sides of the classic color wheels) or complimentary colors (colors that tend to be adjacent to each other on the color wheel. Either system works – it depends on your preferences.

For texture, try to mix various leaf characteristics as this adds interest – from strap leaf character of grasses and spikes to various leaf textures of annuals and perennials.

And lastly – bloom season. Containers can be planted to be focal points in spring, summer or fall – just select plant material that will flower in the appropriate season.

Third - Maintenance of the Planted Containers

To maintain the planted container, remember that since the container will drain readily, it must be watered frequently. I like to use a drip irrigation system with containers to avoid being a slave to daily or every other day watering. Periodic fertilizing and dead heading are good practices to keep the containers in peak form.

Another practice that one should practice is “pruning or pinching” plants back to keep the container form balanced and to keep the plant’s foliage appearing fresh.

Remember – Container gardening is a great way to spice up your landscape! Ω

July's DID YOU KNOW

- ◆ Trees may lose up to 10% of their leaves during very dry conditions. This helps reduce water lost from the tree by transpiration and causes little or no harm to the tree.
- ◆ Monitor trees and shrubs for Japanese beetles. Adults lay eggs in July and August and continually migrate to susceptible hosts.
- ◆ When you read recommendations to water newly transplanted shrubs frequently, pay attention. University of California research showed that shrubs watered every few days outgrew shrubs watered every 10 to 12 days by almost 5 times.
- ◆ Mums should be lightly fertilized every two weeks with a water-soluble fertilizer. To keep plants compact and full of blooms, pinch out new tip growth until eight weeks before they are to bloom, approximately mid-July. For large exhibition mums, allow only one



Gardenias are in bloom in late June/early July. Float blossoms in a decorative bowl and enjoy the wonderful fragrance.

or two shoots to develop. Stake these shoots, and remove side buds as they start to develop.

- ◆ Divide and transplant bearded iris using the vigorous ends of rhizomes. Discard the old center portion. Cut the leaves back to about 8 inches.
- ◆ Get a second bloom from faded annuals by cutting them back to approximately half their height, then fertilize with 1/2 cup of 5-

10-10 fertilizer per square yard of planted area and apply a generous layer of mulch.

- ◆ Begin to cut and dry herbs and flowers.
- ◆ Hot, dry weather brings out red spider mites. Inspect roses, evergreens, and marigolds in particular for pale-green coloration. Hold a white sheet of paper underneath a leaf and briskly tap it. Tiny, crawling mites will drop onto the paper if they are present on the leaf. If infestation is light, discourage mites with a forceful, direct spray of water from the hose. Severely infested annual plants should be removed and destroyed. Mild infestations can be controlled with pesticides.

Reference: Virginia Tech Office of Consumer Horticulture. Ω

Container Gardening Examples

See article by D. Richardson on page 4



The container on the left includes:

1. Mexican Feather Grass (Stripe Tenuissima) (Pony Tails)
2. Million Bells Petunia Calibrachoa (Calibir Deep Yellow)
3. Euphorbia Diamond Frost (Spurge)



Example of a simple container

MEETING CALENDAR FOR 2006			
MONTH	DAY	PROGRAM	REFRESHMENTS
July	17	C. Holloway—M'boro City Horticulturalist	Selby, K.Smith, Huffman
August	21	In-Group Speaker	POT LUCK
September	18	K. Molloy	W.Richardson, Gutherz, Fladung
October	16	TBA	Ellis, Fedorowicz
November	18	M.Nevills—Edu. Dir. Oaklands Mansion	Arnold, Dickson, P.Richardson
December	19	No Speaker—Holiday Celebration	POT LUCK



Schedule of Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 3 & 4 — Relive Independence Day 1815 at The Hermitage, Nashville, TN 8:30 AM — 5:00 PM. July 13 — University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture 17th Annual Lawn & Garden Show — Agricultural Experiment Station, Jackson, TN 1:00-8:00 PM. July 17 — Monthly Master Gardener Meeting July 20 — Landscape Design workshop 6:00-8:30 p.m. Watkins College of Art & Design. Call 615-383-4848 for info. July 29-30 — Bonsai Show & Competition—MTSU Keathley Center, Murfreesboro, TN

*(Monthly Minutes)
(Continued from page 2)*

D. Richardson reported that the 17th Annual Summer Celebration Lawn and Garden Show will be July 13 in Jackson, TN

K. Miller reported on the Conference in Chattanooga; about 250 attended from several states; \$1700 was raised at the Silent Auction for MG endowment; Next regional MG conference will be at Kingsport in 2008; the next International Conference will be in

Little Rock, Ark. in 2007. K. Leone and A. Rich attended the meeting on Junior MG.

E. Arnold introduced our speaker, B. Talbot, TN State Horticulturist. He gave an overview of his and his staff's care of the Capital grounds, Ellington Center, the Governor's home, and Bicentennial Mall which is now 10 years old. Among the problems at the Mall, he said that in 1996, 3 lightning strikes destroyed all the electric systems there; in

1998 a tornado destroyed 60 trees as well as the roof of the Farmer's Market; in 2005 Lightning hit the carillons which may be repaired by this July. The Mall is intended to showcase native plants, but East TN plants do not grow well in Middle TN. Mr. Talbot gave us a list of the Bicentennial Mall plants and trees and recommended certain ones for our use.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Interesting Study

Catnip is reported to be 10 times as effective as the same amount of DEET® for repelling mosquitos. Researchers are still isolating the essential oil in the herb, but watch for it in the future. In the meantime, even rubbing catnip foliage on the skin seems to be an effective repellent. Other plants also show potential as repellents; among them are garlic, verbena, pennyroyal, geranium, lavender, cinnamon, rosemary and peppermint.

Source: *The Oregonian*

Gardening Pitfalls - Gardening by the Yard : Episode GBY-627
(copied from HGTV Website)

Pitfall: Planting on a slope can be a problem primarily because water tends to quickly run off the slope before it has a chance to seep into the soil. That can lead to erosion on steep slopes. It also means that whatever is planted on the slope may not get enough water.

Solution: Regardless of what you're planting, create a level planting area. For example, James planted a young dogwood, raising the low side of

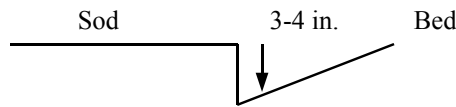
the slope with soil so that the tree is actually growing on a level surface. If you are forced to plant on a steep slope, then chances are you'll be better off to actually create terraces and stair-step the planting area. This requires a lot of digging and very often constructing retaining walls, which means a lot of work.

Source: *Gardening By The Yard*
Paul James, HGTV.com

GARDENING HINTS THAT WORK
for
Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

Defining A Line Between Lawns & Beds
From D. Richardson

I like to see a very sharp definitive line between my lawn areas and my flower/shrub beds. The practices that I use to accomplish this is to create an edge by cutting a trench prior to mulching as follows:



After this trench is created, it is filled with mulch when the bed is mulched. I try to renew this edge each time (annually) that I mulch. Of course, the grass along the edge will “flop” over into the bed and defy the mower picking it up. This problem can be corrected by either using an edger, a weed eater (held to trim vertically), or by use of hand trimmers. I try to edge on alternate mowings

GARDEN GLIMPSES

From Our Members' Gardens



Daylily—D. Fladung Garden

This month we are featuring pictures of gardens created by some of our members. I hope that all of you will take pictures of your gardens and send them to me so that they, too, may be featured for others to admire.

K. Smith, Editor



Clematis—D. Fladung Garden



One Focal Point—Fladung Garden



Gazebo—Fladung Garden



Close-Up of Focal Point—Fladung Garden

Featured Photo of the Month

THE VOODOO LILY

D. Fladung Garden

Fladung says this is an attractive plant and the center spike looks and feels like velvet. It is a beautiful flower; however, for about two to three days, it has a putrid odor. Fladung said that during this time the plant attracts flies. The flies and odor disappear about the same time, but the flower remains for about two weeks. The foliage will last until frost.

This editor did a little research and found the Voodoo Lily is hardy in Zones 6A&B through Zone 10. It's height is 36-48 inches and should be spaced 6-9 inches. Plant the bulbs in partial to full shade or indoors. Propagate by dividing corms or bulbs. Seeds can be collected from the pods. Sow immediately as the seeds do not store well.

WARNING: All parts of the Voodoo Lily are poisonous if ingested. Handling may cause skin irritation or an allergic reaction.



Voodoo Lily (*Aracea Sauromatum guttatum*) - D. Fladung Garden
Purchased by Fladung from Iris City Gardens

TO RECEIVE YOUR MASTER GARDENERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY,
BE PRESENT AT THE NEXT MEETING!

MASTER GARDENERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Lane Agri-Park
315 John R. Rice Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: 615-898-7710

Newsletter Editor:
Email: ksmith555@bellsouth.net



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, county governments cooperating, UT Extension, and Tennessee State University provide equal opportunities in programs and employment.

"The SCOOP" is the monthly newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published the fourth week of each month by email. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, events, etc. to be included in the newsletter is the third Friday of each month.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the Lane Agri-Park at 6:30 p.m., unless specified. Membership is \$25 for a single, or \$35 for a couple residing at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are prorated.

Memberships in the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County are open to those interested in learning, teaching, and volunteering for the purpose of educating the community in all phases of gardening.

PLEASE NOTE: MASTER GARDENER CERTIFICATION REQUIRES 40 HOURS OF TRAINING PLUS 40 HOURS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE. RECERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS ARE 25 VOLUNTEER HOURS, PLUS 8 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PER YEAR. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS COUNTS AS 1.5 HOURS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION AND 1.5 HOURS FOR ADMINISTRATION.