

The SCOOP



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MGRC Members who wish to tour the new facilities be at the Agri-Center at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 18th.

Master Gardeners of
Rutherford County

Presents

**Fall
Lawn & Garden
Extravaganza**

September 25-26,
2009

Community Center &
Farmers Market

Lane Agri-Park
315 John R. Rice
Blvd.
Murfreesboro, TN

LANE AGRI-PARK DEVELOPMENT Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Phase II

By: M. Dewayne Trail
County Director – Rutherford County Extension



Community Center & Farmers Market

1. How many years did it take for this project to get from the planning process to the construction stage? *It took 4 years to get the necessary funding, complete the facility design, get the plan approved, and reach that point where we were ready for the construction stage.*
2. How big is the Community Center? *The Community Center is 60 feet in width and 275 feet in length. It will be a 16,500 sq .ft. building. The facility will have meeting rooms to accommodate small groups of 30-40 people or large groups of 300-400 people.*
3. Can the Community Center be used year round? *The facility does have heat and air conditioning; so, it could be used any time of the year.*
4. Can Rutherford County Citizens use the facility? *Absolutely! The facility could be used for family reunions, anniversary gatherings, birthday parties, and many other activities. Those wishing to use the facility will complete a 4-step process:*
 - a. *Fill out a Request for Use Form.*
 - b. *Provide proof of liability insurance for the activity period.*
 - c. *Pay a use deposit (which is fully refundable if the facility is left clean and in order when vacated.)*
 - d. *Pay a rental fee.*
5. Will the addition of the Community Center change the way the extension Office currently functions? *Yes! It will allow us to expand our current program effort. The new facility will allow us to schedule some events which we couldn't schedule earlier. For example, we (or the Rutherford County Master Gardener Association) could plan and conduct a Lawn & Garden Show for those with horticultural interests. The grounds area will be used for research and/or demonstration plots to help with our teaching program. For instance, we can actually demonstrate "on-site" how to prune plants rather than just tell how it is done in a classroom setting.*
6. Is the Farmers' Market moving from its current location on Front Street? *The Farmers' Market will be relocated to the Lane Agri-Park and operated from the new Community Center. This year, **the market will open June 12 and be open on Tuesday and Friday of each week through October 30.***



Ornamental Grasses Tip

If you haven't cut back your ornamental grasses, it may be too late as most ornamental grasses in our area already have new growth. Just remember this tip when the time to cut back arrives next year – late winter or early spring.

This is a tip from Joene Hendry of Connecticut shared in the Horticulture

Magazine Newsletter via internet distribution.

“For cutting ornamental grasses, try tying the tall grasses with a length of compostable garden twine. In the absence of twine, a reusable bungee cord will suffice. Use a saw to slice off the stalks as close to the ground level as possible. Once free, the stalks hold

together for easy transport to the compost pile, where they should be further cut into smaller, quickly degradable pieces. If needed, the remaining stalks can be neatened up with a few cuts of the pruning shears, or for larger more established clumps, use loppers.”

www.hortmag.com

Getting Rid of Crabgrass (*Digitaria supp.*)

By: Carol Reese



“Crabgrass is a composite of several species, all of which are opportunistic, colonizing open spots in the lawn where the soil is bare, compacted or otherwise disturbed. The coarse texture and prostrate habit of the plants make this grass especially unappealing. It is tolerant of dry, poor soil and occurs in nearly every soil type and crop or landscape. Seed germination begins in spring, but it may continue throughout the growing season. The spreading stems bear coarse, often hairy leaves and can root at their nodes. Flowers and seed are borne in multiple spikes atop wiry stems. The

plants are killed by the first frost in fall, leaving great quantities of seed for the next year.

Control: Even repeated close mowing will not stop crabgrass from reseeding. Pre-emergent herbicides, however, will prevent the seed from germinating. These typically include pendimethalin, bensulide, benefin and trifluralin, among others. Corn gluten is an organic herbicide alternative that has shown some ability to suppress crabgrass germination.

It is important to apply pre-emergent herbicides at the right time. The exact date

will vary by region and even from year to year, but it is typically when forsythia in your area is in bloom.

Depending on your location, a second application may be necessary as the first loses its potency. Reapplication times will vary according to your soil type and rainfall. Check with your local experts for specifics.

Finally, because crabgrass is intolerant of shade, maintaining a vigorous stand of the desired turf grass through proper mowing, fertilization and soil care is the best defense against the opportunistic invader.”

www.hortmag.com/article/crab-grass

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

- **May 21** – 6:30 p.m. -- Rain Gardens – Speaker Dr. Warren Anderson, MGRC. – Sponsored by Warren County Master Gardeners – Warren County Administration Bldg.
- **May 1-30** – Cheekwood open until 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.
- **May 23** – 10:00 a.m. -- Linebaugh Library Plant & Nature Series -- MGRC
- **May 31** – Art of the Garden Tour – 9 gardens in the Richland/West End & Belle Meade sections of Nashville \$20 admission
- **June 5 & 6** --Secret Garden Party and Garden Tour
The Secret Garden Party will be held at the home of Bill and Kathy Jones, with delicious food to enjoy and fabulous auction items up for bid. This evening is designed for adults only. The Secret Garden Tour will be held on June 6. Local flower, vegetable and herb gardens will be the focus. There will also be gardening workshops for adults and hands-on gardening activities for children at the Discovery Center. Benefits the Discovery Center at Murfree Spring. (615) 890-2300.

All Brown Bag programs will be held at the Lane Agri-Park located at 315 John R. Rice Blvd. in Murfreesboro, TN. Classes will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude around 12:30 p.m. There is no charge for those attending Brown Bag sessions. You are welcome to bring a lunch and eat during the meeting.



BROWN BAG 2009

May 28	Composting
June 25	Mulching Your Landscapes
July 23	Round Table With Extension Agents
Aug 29	Turf Management Field Day
Sept 24	Low Maintenance Shrubs
Oct 22	Low Maintenance Trees
Nov 19	Pruning Trees & Shrubs

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By: Rosanne Zocco

BISCOTTI (Italian Wedding Cookies)

Yield: 4 dozen

Preheat oven to: 375°

½ cup butter
 1 cup sugar
 4 eggs
 4 tsp. Baking powder
 4 cups flour
 1 ½ to 2 tsp. Anise extract, or 1 tsp. Anise oil (or substitute vanilla or lemon extracts.)

Frosting:

2 cups confectioner's sugar
 ½ tsp. Vanilla
 Milk to make slightly runny glaze
 Food coloring, as desired

Directions:

Cream butter with sugar, add eggs and continue beating until fluffy. Mix in the flour, baking powder and anise. Roll like a sausage. Cut off 3 or 4 inch pieces; shape and twist into wreaths or any desired shape and place on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes

Frost in pretty spring colors when cool.

Committee Chairs 2009

Sam Davis Home	Goetz
Linebaugh Library Series	Arnold
Fall Extravaganza	Lindquist
Newsletter	K. Smith
Website	Ellis
Demonstration Garden	TBA
Demonstration Vineyard	TBA
Demonstration Orchard	TBA

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OFFICERS 2009

President: Linda Goetz
Vice President: Linda Lindquist
Secretary: Judy Cunningham
Treasurer: Emily Arnold
Past President & Executive Board:
Jack Smith

Newsletter: Katherine Smith
Website Coordinator: Bob Ellis
UT/TSU Extension Advisor:
Anthony Tuggle

About Our Organization

“The Scoop” is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. 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 due the fourth 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 pro-rated for new members only.

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 of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration.

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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.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.mastergardeners-rc.org