



Rutherford County Courthouse
Courtesy of The Daily News Journal

**December Meeting
Changed To:
DECEMBER 13 6:30 P.M.
Bring a side dish or dessert.**

2010-2011 WINTER WEATHER FORECAST

By: Dewayne Trail, Director Emeritus, Rutherford County Extension

Our 2010-2011 Winter -

Most people consider winter to be that period from when we have our first killing frost in the fall to when new growth begins the following spring. According to the calendar, this winter begins on December 21st and ends on March 20th of the coming year .

Our 1st Killing Frost -

Each year from early to mid October, Rutherford County residents usually see a few light frosts. The average date of the first killing frost in Rutherford County is October 22. Statistically, there is a 10% chance of the first killing frost occurring before the second week in October and a 10% chance of it occurring after the first week in November. Weather lore suggests that an early killing frost is a sign of bad winter weather.

Weather Specialists Verses Mother Nature

Weather information is provided by dedicated employees of our National Weather Service, Regional Weather Centers, and Local News Stations. We're fortunate to have these sources for weather information, and we should rely on the accurate and timely information they provide. Still, ordinary folks were making

weather predictions long before weather specialists and the sophisticated equipment they use came on the scene. Years ago, people relied on "signs from nature" to show the kind of weather for various seasons of the year. The thinking was "Who better than Mother Nature" to show what she had in store.

Winter "Weather Lore"

Weather lore has been handed down from one generation to another, and the lore predictions for winter weather seem as popular today as they were years ago. Some lore predictions seem to contradict themselves, but weather patterns do differ from one area to another. The winter weather lore prediction which seems most popular, regardless of where people live, is that dealing with **Banded Woolly Worms**.

Sometimes called a woolly bear or fuzzy bear in official references, it is the larval stage of an Isabella Tiger Moth. The banded woolly worm has a black hair color on both ends of its body and a rust-orange hair color between the two black bands. The adult stage of the banded woolly worm is a very beautiful, yellow colored moth.

Winter Snow

Try counting the number of ground fogs in August. Weather lore suggests there will be as many snows during winter as there were fogs in August.

Winter Weather Lore and the Persimmon

Check the seed of a persimmon after a fall frost. Cut into the



Banded Woolly Worm

seed from the narrow side, and look at the kernel. See if you can recognize the shape of a spoon, fork, or knife. If the kernel is shaped like a:

Spoon: look for a harsh winter with heavy, wet snow.

Fork: look for a mild winter with light powdery snow.

Knife: look for a cold, icy winter with cutting winds.



Isabella Tiger Moth

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Weather

NOTE: Visit the websites below for colorful photos and additional information about the Banded Woolly Worm:

<http://www3.islandtelecom.com/~oehlkew/spisabel.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

[Pyrharctia_isabella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrharctia_isabella)



May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love.

~Ada V. Hendricks



(Continued from page 1)

Woolly Worm Lore

Weather lore suggests that winter weather will be bad if:

- Woolly worms have heavy hair coats.
- Lots of them are seen crawling around,
- Their movement is unusually slow.
- You see them crawling before the first frost.



Colder Winter Weather

Weather lore suggests winter weather will be colder if:

- Animals have thicker coats of hair or fur.
- Squirrels build their nests low in trees and gather nuts early.
- Ants build their mounds high.
- Larger numbers of spiders are seen in the fall.
- A heavy crop of berries are found on holly and dogwood trees.

- Birds are migrating early or huddling on the ground.
- You hear lots of rolling thunder during late fall.
- Leaves are shed before their color change is complete.

Other Weather Lore Predictions

- Count the number of cricket chirps in a 14-second period and add 40; the resulting number will be within one degree of the actual air temperature.
- Three months after the first katydids begin to sing, the first killing frost will come.
- Weather during the first 12 days after Christmas indicate what the weather will be like during each of the 12 months during the coming year.
- Cows and deer stand facing west if bad weather is approaching, east when weather is good.

about what is in store for the coming season. Regardless of what they indicate, the "folk" lore predictor most used for winter weather information is the woolly worm.

Woolly worms seem to have heavier hair coats this year. A large number of woolly worms were seen crawling, and they were out-and-about early in September - well before our first frost. A large number had more black hair than rust-orange hair which indicates winter weather will be bad.

My Prediction:

Based on this year's woolly worm activity, the coming winter will be colder with below normal temperature for Rutherford County: PREPARE!

Get out those warm sweaters and heavier coats. Remember, regardless of the weather, to enjoy the season and all it brings! ∞

Dewayne



2010-2011 Winter Weather Forecast

All weather lore predictors have something to tell us



2010 MGRC OFFICERS

President	Linda Lindquist	Newsletter Editor	Katherine Smith
Vice President	Judy Cunningham	Website Coordinator	Bob Ellis
Secretary	Karla Hagan	Event Coordinator	Doretha Jackson
Co-Treasurers	Emily Arnold James Dickson	County Director & Master Gardener Coordinator	Anthony Tuggle

The Baby Butterfly Garden

By: Nancy Nelson, MGRC



MGRC Butterfly Garden

We had an unexpected birth this spring when the TN Advocacy Board surprised us with a thank you gift for hosting Winter School 2010. What a beautiful surprise! We were given several containers and flats of plants to start a butterfly garden.

With all births there are labor pains to be endured. This spring several members experienced those pains with sore backs and knees. (A lot of mothers say they don't remember the pain after a baby is born. I certainly hope that's true for everyone involved in this birth.) There was planning to be done, sod to be removed, organic matter added and lots of holes dug for the young plants to snuggle in to get their roots established and grow. The spring rains came which we gardeners love, then the historical May Flood that will be remembered for years. After the rains, came the sun to dry things up. We experienced a long, hot, dry summer, not exactly a gardeners favorite conditions.

Unfortunately I wasn't able to be there for the birth of the garden but I walked over for a visit one morning after shopping at the Farmers Market. As I started down the side-

walk, I saw a butterfly land in the garden; I slowed down, not wanting to scare it away before I could get a closer look. The closer I got, the more activity I saw. When I got up close, to my surprise the garden was covered in little butterflies. Skippers and Emperors were everywhere, flying from one plant to another. My first thought was, "what a beautiful baby butterfly garden". How exciting, there were blooms and butterflies everywhere.

After the wet spring and heat from the summer sun, nasty weeds began to pop up. At our meeting Linda told us some weeding needed to be done. The next morning a few of us went over and found pesky weeds trying to choke the flowers that had been planted. A few more labor pains from weeding and adding a blanket of mulch the garden was back to showing its beauty. Linda installed a puddling pond with sand and gravel finishing up our plans for the first year. Unfortunately, some plants didn't survive the flood and heat so the bare spots were filled in with a few purchases at the Fall Lawn and Garden Extravaganza. The Iris Society donated some rhizomes (can't wait to see the blooms in the spring) and members have shared extra plants from their gardens. It has been an eventful year to put it lightly and the "babies" are going down for their winter nap, hopefully to return in the spring, healthy and stronger.

A special thank you to the Clery's for the beautiful "birth announcement" they made and to everyone for their help planning, planting, weeding and hauling mulch.

We have flowers for butterflies to enjoy nectar now need to add some food sources for the butterfly larvae. To do this we will need

to expand the garden. Maybe adding an herb garden, plant a few trees and shrubs. Just like raising a child, the planning and work never ends, but the reward knowing we are creating a beautiful area for the community to enjoy and learn makes it worthwhile. I was watering one morning when a little girl and her mother came from the Farmers Market to visit the outdoor classroom. All the butterflies fascinated her; luckily her Mom had a camera with her and snapped a few pictures of her taking a close look at the butterflies. The smile on her face and excitement in her eyes made everything worthwhile. Maybe a future Master Gardener is developing in her.

The pavilion is used as an outdoor classroom during the Farmers Market and I've seen several people walk over just to see what's going on. The garden is another opportunity to showcase some of our beautiful, beneficial native plants and educate our community. ∞



MGRC Butterfly Garden

Christmas Greetings

A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;
It makes no noise at all,
But softly gives itself away;
While quite unselfish, it grows small.

Eva K. Logue

From home to home, and heart to heart,
from one place to another
The warmth and joy of Christmas,
brings us closer to each other.

Emily Matthews

May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace.

The gladness of Christmas give you hope.

The warmth of Christmas grant you love.



The Good Old Days

By: Linda Schien, MGRC — Written By: David Millican



Several weeks ago, at the Farmer’s market, I was able to pick up all kinds of vegetables, bread, goat cheese and an assortment of desserts. Later in the day Publix offered up whatever else was on the shopping list. I didn’t think twice about not being able to get what I needed as everything was there and convenient. We take this convenience and availability of food for granted.

A generation ago during World War II this wasn’t always the case. Below is an article my eighty-two year old father submitted to his local grocery store for their historical archives. It is a day in his life in 1944.

Back in 1944, towards the end of the war in Europe, I worked for a Loblaw’s groceteria store in Hamilton as a ‘Saturday boy’ also known as ‘Bag Boy’. ‘Saturday Boys’ were high school students who, through the school year, worked Fridays after school and all day Saturday. Because of the employment demand of war industries and manpower shortages, we were able to get more working hours during summer holidays.

Our basic job was to work alongside the checkers packaging the customer orders in paper bags hence the name ‘Bag Boys’; and as the main working day was the Saturday, ‘Saturday Boy’ also fitted. During the summer some of us were allowed to work in various departments stocking

shelves, packaging meat or refilling fruit and vegetable tables in the produce department.

Our store was located in an area of the city known as ‘Little England’ obviously because there were a lot of emigrants from England living there; the cockney accents indicated East London. Putting a product on a shelf prompted the question “Watcher got there, luv?”

The day of this story was one very busy Saturday in the summer and I was wearing the usual uniform of white shirt with black clip-on bowtie and a white apron. I was working as ‘Bag Boy’ with the #1 cashier, Mary and at mid morning she was told to take a break and I was told there was a flatbed truck with canned goods to be shelved.

At this time food was being shipped to England to relieve huge shortages caused by the war which, of course, meant some items weren’t as readily available here as people would have liked. High on this list were canned fruit, canned salmon and canned vegetables.

I went to collect the flatbed from the back of the store and , as I had to return to the cash desk when Mary arrived back from her break, I stupidly didn’t take the time to check the load but wheeled it straight out to the grocery section. A crowd gathered around immediately with the stock queries “Any hot stuff?” and “Watcher got?” I opened one of the top boxes and lifted out a can of Brights Peaches. ‘BINGO’ #1 on the hit parade. The word spread like wildfire and soon half the store customers were surrounding me and the truck. In the crush, I was pinned against the load and my efforts to protect the cartons were fruitless. I

was also between some very determined people and the objects of their desire.

I was grabbed by my shirt which ripped open removing buttons and bowtie and then, as more hands reached to move me out of the way, began to tear apart.

At this point the store manager, along with the grocery, meat and produce managers, formed a wedge and forced their way through the crowd and got me out leaving the truck and its’ merchandise to their fate.

I couldn’t go back to the cashier’s desk wearing my torn shirt so the manager gave me money to go buy a new one. I got back to find the riot subsided, the stock truck stripped and empty cartons and dented cans scattered around the aisle. As a result of this episode, newly delivered scarcer items were shelved early Thursday or Friday mornings by 2 employees.

It turned out there had been 3 cartons of canned fruit, 2 of canned salmon and 2 of canned vegetables on the flatbed and as I was back at the cashier’s desk packing for Mary, I got to see some of the riot winners as they paid for their hard won gains.

There was no direct mention of the earlier encounter from any of the ladies but I did get a ‘thank you’ for the salmon and a comment on my new shirt! ∞

“The word spread like wildfire and soon half the store customers were surrounding me and the truck. In the crush, I was pinned against the load ...”



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

HOLIDAY INSTANT SPICED TEA

Katherine Smith, MGRC

- 1 cup lemon-flavored iced tea
- 1 cup orange-flavored breakfast drink mix
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon each: ground nutmeg & ground ginger

To make 1 serving, place 2 heaping tablespoons* spiced tea mix in a cup, add 1 cup boiling water, and stir gently.

**Use less, if desired.*

Enjoy



December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 MGRC Meeting	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29	30	31	

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Jan 11—April 18 Tuesdays 6:00—9:00 PM	Master Gardener Class	Lane Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	615-898-7710
Jan 22—Feb 19 Saturdays 9:00 — 12:00 N	Basic Gardening Class	Lane-Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	615-898-7710
Jan 28 8:00—5:00	TN Flower Growers Association Meeting (3rd Annual)	Nashville Airport Marriott	
Jan 29 8:00—12:00 Noon			
Feb 24, 25, 26	TMG Winter School	Lane Agri-Center-Murfreesboro	



MASTER GARDENERS OF
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

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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 last Friday of the 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 at the same address. All memberships are valid January through December and are pro-rated for new members only. Please note: Master Gardener Certification requires 40 hours of training plus 40 hours of volunteer service. Recertification requirements are 25 volunteer hour, plus 8 hours of continuing education per year. Attendance at meetings counts as 1.5 hour of continuing education and 1.5 hours of administration.

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