

# THE SCOOP

## Master Gardeners of Rutherford County

FEBRUARY 2011



VOL. VII ISSUE 2

### MASTER GARDENER CLASS—2011



### 2011 COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

By: Katherine Smith, Editor, CTMG

Master Gardeners of Rutherford County prides itself on educating the community through classes, seminars, booths as well as other local events. This year is no exception. MGRC is conducting this year's Master Gardener Class. Many pre-planning sessions were held in the weeks before classes began, and we have assembled some of Middle Tennessee's finest experts to teach each session.

The 2011 Master Gardener Class has 42 students, all eager to learn and take part. Classes began January 11th and will continue weekly for fourteen weeks.

### GARDEN BASICS CLASS—2011



This is the sixth year for our Garden Basics class. Garden Basics is for the individual who wishes to learn more about gardening. Each year we have geared the subjects to educate the community about topics which generated the most garden related inquiries to the Extension Service. The 2011 classes are being held weekly January 22 through February 19.

Master Gardener and Garden Basics classes rotate each year, with one held in the evening and the other held in the morning. This gives members of our community a more flexible time to coincide with their schedules..

*"If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere."*

*-by Vincent van Gough*

## MGRC BUTTERFLY GARDEN

By: Nancy Nelson, CTMG

The butterfly garden has been covered with a white blanket several times this winter and may be covered a few more times before spring gets here. I love snow so this winter has been a treat for me but today I want to get out and do some digging. The temperature in the low 50's is a real pleasure, but I know old man winter is just teasing us. It is late January and we still have to get through February, which can be our coldest month of winter. Our gardens may get a few more white blankets covering them before spring.

Anthony told us they have purchased some shrubs to plant around the fence at the pavilion. When the ground thaws and dries enough some native shrubs and grasses will be planted on the back corner and around the shed. I believe they have some Bottle-brush Buckeye, Possumhaw Viburnum, Ninebark and some native grasses to plant. Butterflies will love these shrubs and hopefully people will see the beauty our native shrubs offer and add some to their own landscape.

We have been working on a plan to expand the butterfly garden. The plan is to extend the garden out and half way down the right side of the fence. When the ground thaws and dries enough we will

have some workdays in mid to late February or early March to remove the grass and prepare the soil to add more host plants this spring. If anyone has plants you know butterflies love and you will be dividing them this spring or will have extra seedlings and would like to share please let me know. They will be greatly appreciated. Butterfly Weed, Swamp Milkweed, Coreopsis, Yarrow, Aster, Columbine, Bee Balm, Parsley are only a few suggestions.

Our trip planned to Mary's Greenhouse this spring may be a good time to pick up some additions for filling in the garden. In the mean time keep looking at those catalogues and planning, spring will be here before we know it, AND if we do have more snow, throw a snowball just for the fun of it. Enjoy the rest of winter. ..



*MGRC Butterfly Garden*

## CREATING WATER GARDENS

By: Linda Schien, CTMG

Now is the time to scope out an area in your yard for a bog garden. The nice thing about creating a bog garden is that it enables you to grow an interesting variety of plants which will defy the hot dry summers of our county. Your chosen site should be away from prevailing winds and provide a little bit of shade. An area of slight depression or a poorly drained spot would be ideal. Avoid tree roots as they drain moisture from the soil.

Start by digging out your chosen area to a depth of 14 inches. Level the bottom of the excavation and take out any sharp stones to protect the liner. Cover the area with a large sheet of pond lining material. Keep the liner in place by putting smooth rocks around the edges. With a garden fork poke a few holes in the liner to allow some of the water to escape. To help the soil to retain moisture, line the bottom with a layer of washed gravel. For irrigation lay a perforated pipe (holes in the pipe 12 inches apart) over the gravel and let it extend beyond the edges of the garden. Now with aquatic planting mixture fill the garden to ground level. Saturate the soil so that 3 inches of water remains on top before planting. Some suggested plants are primula veris, hosta, mimulus, lysimachia thryisflora, astilbe, and lobelia cardinalis. Remember to protect against slugs and snails. The depth of your plantings should be the same as they were in the



*Water Garden Example*

pots. Make sure to seat them well. To create impact, plant several of one variety together in one area. A variation in the height, foliage, size and color of the plants will create interest. To reduce moisture loss, fill in spaces with washed pebbles. In our dry summers you can use the pipe inserted during the creation of your garden to top up the water level.

If you haven't room for a bog garden you can make a small one in a barrel or other container. Make sure there are three to four drainage holes in the bottom and a layer of crocks. To be successful the soil must be kept saturated. Also remember to mulch with pebbles to retain the moisture.

PS-Tractor Supply had some cute water proof clogs for sale last year. Mine are yellow with lady bugs on them. They are great for this type of project. ..

*Source - The Water Garden by Yvonne Rees-Neil Sutherland*

# February 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Master Gardener Class 6-9 pm	2	3	4	5 Garden Basics Class 9 a.m.-12 N
6	7	8 Master Gardener Class 6-9 pm	9	10	11	12 Garden Basics Class 9 a.m.-12 N
13	14 	15 Master Gardener Class 6-9 pm	16	17	18	19 Garden Basics Class 9 a.m.-12 N
20	21 MG Meeting 6:30 p.m	22 Master Gardener Class 6-9 pm	23	24 TMG Winter School Brown Bag	25 TMG Winter School	26 TMG Winter School
27	28 					

**BROWN BAG:** The first of the 2011 Brown Bag Sessions begin February 24th at the Rutherford County Extension office—Lane Agri-Park. All sessions will be held on the 4th Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This program is offered to the public at no charge. Everyone is encouraged to bring a “brown bag lunch” for a lunch and learn session. Mitchell Mote from the Extension Service will conduct the first session February 24th with the subject being : **VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS — HOW TO GROW THEM.**

All Master Gardeners who attend a session will earn 1 hour CEU credit.

## Upcoming Events

February 10 - 13 10am-7pm Fri & Sat 11am-5pm Sun. \$15 on site \$10 in advance	Antiques & Garden Show Convention Center—Nashville <i>"Elements"</i> <i>The largest show of its kind in the nation.</i>	www.antiquesandgardenshow.com 800-391-8075 615-352-9064
March 3-6	22nd Annual Lawn & Garden Show TN State Fairgrounds	www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com 615-876-7680
March 4	Proven Winners Outdoor Living Extravaganza — \$80.00 (includes lunch, snacks, beverages, prizes, goodie bags) Atlanta, GA	www.provenwinners.com
March 4-6	Upper Cumberland Home & Garden Show Agriculture Pavilion —Cookville	931-528-7472
March 19	Daffodil Day in Bell Buckle	www.bellbucklechamber.com 931-389-9663
April 3	Mule Day—Columbia	maurycvb@maurycounty-tn.gov. 931-381-7876
April 8-10	Bloom 'n' Garden Lawn & Garden Show Ag Expo Center—Franklin	614-972-2112
April 21-23	2011 Spring Flower & Garden Show Cumberland Co Master Gardeners Crossville	Www.ccma.org

*MCRC Directory Photos  
will be taken at the  
February Meeting!*

# MGRS SNAPSHOTS



*View from the Butterfly Garden*



*Garden Basics—Edible Landscapes*



*Garden Basics—Getting Ready for Spring*



*Master Gardener Class — Lawn Management  
Mitchell Mote —Extension Service*



*Master Gardeners Earning CEU Hours by  
attending a Garden Basics Session*



*Dwayne Trail, County Director Emeritus  
Welcoming Students to Master Gardener 2011*

FEBRUARY 2011

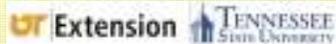
*The Scoop* is the official newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Rutherford County, Tennessee and is published by email the first week of the month. Those members without email and who are not able to attend meetings may receive the newsletter by U.S. Postal mail. The deadline for articles, pictures, 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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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.

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