MASTER GARDENERS’ NEWSLETTER—March 2010

NC Cooperative Extension Office, 98 East Morgan, Brevard, NC 28712

Phone (828)884-3109  Fax (828)884-3142  Web Site www.ces.ncsu.edu/transylvania

President Bill Jennings  Vice-President Elizabeth Reshower  Secretary Elda Brown  Treasurer Ann Hubbard  Time Sheets Linda Drumheller  MGV Newsletter Editor Susan Quillman

General Meetings on 2nd Tuesday usually at the Community Services Building in Brevard

EMGV Advisory Board: Tuesday, March 9th at 9:15 a.m.

EMGV Program: Tuesday, March 9th at 10:00 a.m.

In March, we will have a very special treat – Dick Bir will be giving a presentation on plant propagation. Dick is retired from the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center and is a well-renowned lecturer and researcher. He is author of Growing & Propagating Showy Native Woody Plants – and our Brevard neighbor. We are very fortunate to have Dick available to share his expertise with us.

Upcoming Program: Tuesday, April 13th

An exciting double-feature for our April meeting:

1) Bob Kellam from the NC MGV program will give us a short presentation about resources available from the state organization. Bob was previously scheduled to talk to us at our luncheon, but when we got snowed out, he couldn’t make our reschedule date.

2) We will show “DIRT! The Movie”-narrated by Jaime Lee Curtis – this fascinating documentary takes us inside the wonders of the soil. It tells the story of Earth’s most valuable and underappreciated source of fertility--brings to life the environmental, economic, social and political impact that the soil has. It shares the stories of experts from all over the world who study and are able to harness the beauty and power of a respectful and mutually beneficial relationship with soil.”

Welcome EMGV Training Class of 2010!
The new class is off to a great start with lots of energy and only one snow day so far. We in the Extension Office are excited to see one of our largest classes yet (23 members) and look forward to the next 10 or so weeks of learning together. I really appreciate the interactions and assistance being offered by our "veteran" EMGVs and the great work Maryann is doing to keep us all on track. No doubt 2010 is going to be one of the best years for our Transylvania Extension Master Gardener program!  Eric Caldwell
Members of the EMGV Class of 2010

Barbara Belli
Hope Carroll-Jordan
Robin Cilmi
Maureen Copelof
Glenn Cutler
Edie Gabcik
Sue Howard
Linda Iauch

Molly Jenkins
Diane Kuehn
Laura Ledford
Jan Lee
Anne Limbird
Karen Mitchell
Anne Pevehouse
Carole Pohl

Rocky Rollins
Betty Schenfield
Marian Stansberry
Susan Sunflower
Bill Towler
Marcia Weber
Terry Wester

Transylvania County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training
2010 Class Agenda

Mar 1 – Basic Landscape Design (Kathy Johnson)

Mar 8 – Soils and Fertility (Eric Caldwell)

Extra! Wed, Mar 10 - Dick Bir, NC CES Specialist Emeritus, “Gardening Here” program at UUTC, 6:30 p.m.

Mar 15 – Plant Propagation (Professor Alan Johnson)

Extra! Wed, Mar 17 - Dick Bir “Demystifying Landscape Plants” program at UUTC, 6:30 p.m.

Mar 22 - Vegetables (Dale Robertson and Shelly Heath)

Extra! Wed, Mar 24 - Dick Bir “Mountain Garden Design” with Kathy Johnson at UUTC, 6:30 p.m.

Mar 29 – Insects and Diseases (Dr. Cliff Ruth)

Apr 5 - Wildlife / Firewise (Eric Caldwell)

Apr 12 – Lawns, Trees and Pruning (Eric Caldwell)

Apr 19 – Weeds (Dr. Cliff Ruth)

April 26 – Walking Tour of Silvermont & South Broad Parks (Richard Fry)

May 3 – Water & Gardening Styles and Methods/Exam Hand Out (Eric Caldwell & Guest Speaker TBD)

May 10 – Resource Review/Wrap Up/Exam Review
Notes from fellow EMGVs:

From Bill Jennings, President

The Silvermont project continues to move forward. In a series of meetings with the Transylvania County Parks and Recreation Department and other interested parties we have put together a three phased approach and an overall site plan for Silvermont is in the final stages of development. The first phase focuses on expanding and improving existing gardens and adding some new ones. This includes trail improvements and signage identifying the plants and linking the “neighborhoods”. Thanks to Elda Brown, Jeannie Fortner and Maryann Mickewicz, we have submitted a proposal to the North Carolina Master Gardeners Association for a matching grant to help with anticipated expenses. The next meeting of the Silvermont group to review the site plan is scheduled for March 15th. Since that is after our March 9th meeting we will need to hold a special EMGV meeting to review the plans and to give everyone a chance to choose their areas of participation. Look for an announcement of time and place at the March 9th meeting.

Our focus for the next advisory board meeting will be the Spring Workshop on March 27th. We have the topic, the place and the presenters, but we still need lots of help with publicity, set-up, registration, refreshments, etc.

From Marion Buehler

Garden Clinic starts next Wednesday, March 3rd! Can spring be far behind? My pussy willow is blooming! I’ve seen crocuses peeking out from under all the slash brought down by the ice storm! Come join us on Wednesdays from 10:00 ‘til 1:00 to help the folks of Transylvania County with their garden questions. There’s no need to sign up. Just show up wearing your EMGV badge and a smile. This is a great way to get hours and new trainees are welcome!

From Bill Jennings, Part II

Transylvania EMGVs were well represented at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on January 26th to discuss Silvermont Park. A basic site plan was used to trace the development of the existing gardens and recreational facilities. We then discussed issues and concerns with the park as it is today as a background for future planning. Participants were given copies of the site map and asked to mark them up with recommendations for renewal and/or new development. This was a “brainstorming” exercise in which participants were asked to put aside reservations and perceived limits and “go for it.” Richard Frye agreed to summarize the input documents and create a draft site plan for our next meeting on 2/11. Based on discussion at the meeting, there will be plenty of opportunity for involvement in activities ranging from plant identification and signage development, to trail building, and from new garden installation to delivering educational programs. MGVs will have a chance to review and recommend changes to the draft plan before it is finalized and sent to the county commissioners for approval. We can also pick and choose our areas of participation and levels of involvement. This is a great opportunity to shore up Silvermont Park and to tie a number of loosely connected elements together in a cohesive pattern. I plan to keep EMGV membership informed as this process goes forward. Feel free to jump in at any point.
From Helen Smith

Here is the last indoor presentation of the Western Carolina Botanical Club for this season.

Program: “Wildflowers of Upper New York State”

Presenter: Ken Borgfeldt

This program will feature photos of wildflowers and scenery from the St. Lawrence River area. Many of the same species are found here in our mountains. Ken is a member of WCBC and an excellent photographer. He is always willing to share his knowledge of photography and always very willing to help those of us who are inexperienced and/or are learning to use new cameras.

Program Time: 2 pm  March 12, 2010

Place Bullington Center, Hendersonville

For further information members may call Helen Smith at 883-4946. Some of us do carpool on those days.

A reminder to let everyone know about the 60th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smoky Mountain National Park at Gatlinburg, TN the week of April 21-25, 2010. Check out the website /link: http://www.springwildflowerpilgrimage.org

From Elaine Deppe

Become a Volunteer Observer of your Garden for Science

You aren't the only one interested in when your redbud blooms or the red maples leaf out in your neighborhood. Scientists want feedback on the simple observations you make in your own yards, neighborhoods and parks throughout the year.

Specifically, the USA National Phenology Network keeps track of the behavior of plants across the country as winter turns to spring, spring to summer, and so on. Phenology is the study of the changes in plants and animals in response to seasonal cycles. To become a volunteer observer, reporting data from your neck of the woods, visit www.usanpn.org and click on "Observe" for all the details.

This item of interest was in the Haywood Electric monthly magazine, Carolina Country, January 2010.

From Jeannie Falknor

Spring Conference Reminder!!

Our annual Master Gardener Volunteers spring conference is Saturday, March 27, at the library. The time is not set yet but it usually runs 8:30 to noon.
We need people to volunteer for these things to help make the conference a great success:

1. **Promotion.** Helping to distribute flyers and posters about the conference all over the county starting March 8.

2. **Registration, set-up and clean up.** Working the registration table at the event and helping to set up and clean up.

3. **Food.** We supply snacks for the participants so need volunteers to make goodies. Last year we had nearly 200 attendees.

4. **Door prizes.** Last year we had plants and other goodies that we gave away in drawings.

Please notify Maryann Mickewicz at maryann_mickewicz@ncsu.edu this week and let her know what you can do to help out. Thanks!!

**From Nancy Iha**

The Transylvania County Bird Club (TCBC) has a web page that can be reached by searching Transylvania Co. birds or [www.citcom.net/barg](http://www.citcom.net/barg). Here you will find Meeting Schedules, Bird Count Data, a Photo Gallery, Bird Conservation Topics, and a Digitized Bird Checklist. Membership is only $10 a year. Norma & Bill Siebenheller write "Birds in Focus" for *The Transylvania Times* and can be contacted at 884-5443 with bird sightings. Marvin and Michele Barg can be contacted at 862-8980 about Club membership.

There are three feral cats that hang out in my yard and catch birds and even a white squirrel. I would like to trap them before they produce another litter. Does anyone have a trap they would loan out? Contact Nancy at niba@citcom.net or 884-6865.

"*The greatest service which can be rendered to any country is to add a useful plant to its culture.*" Thomas Jefferson, 1800

**From Gail Comer**

It's thyme to start thinking about Spring and what comes to my mind is the Herb Garden at Silvermont. This is a call for folks who would enjoy working, learning and sharing ideas to make the garden shine. We can get together and start planning workdays, times, and formats. There will be a sign up sheet at the March 9th meeting or email me at eccomer@yahoo.com or phone 884-7966, if you are interested in being an "HERBIE."

**Save the date – April 30, May1and May 2- Herb Festival at Asheville Farmers Market.** It is a delight for the senses!!!
From Kathy Johnson

Our annual Earth Day Sale, held in conjunction with the Brevard area garden clubs, will be held on Saturday, April 24 at 8:30 am. The sale will be located at the parking area of South Broad Park (even though the tailgate market has been relocated.) Be ready to sign up to help with the sale at our March meeting. Also - (weather-permitting) – start potting up plants to be sold on Earth Day.

From Jan Lee, Trainee from the Class of 2010

My most exciting news is that even after this hard winter, there is still lettuce growing in my garden. I covered one raised bed with 2 layers of remay cloth before the December snows. After 2 months of being snowed under, the lettuces are green and growing! Yumm! Unbelieveable.

From Maryann Mickewicz

The EMGV manufactured rainbarrels are available at the Extension Office and will be offered at the Square Foot Gardening Symposium and the Spring Workshop.

COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST:

From Eric Caldwell

Transylvania Community Forum
March 2, 2010 – 5:00 to 7:00pm
Transylvania County Library – Rogow Room

An opportunity to learn about:

- Results of the 2009 Community Health Assessment
- Progress since the last community health assessment
- Results of the Transylvania United forums on Health, Financial Sustainability and Education
- How these efforts are being combined to create a Healthy Transylvania County

Please attend and share your perspective. Creating a healthy community is our shared responsibility.

For additional information about this event, please call:
Steve Smith, Transylvania County Department of Public Health (828) 884-3135
Steve Pulliam, Transylvania United Way (828) 883-8822

Look for additional information about this event in Transylvania Times, Mountain Voice and other media outlets in the immediate future.
Special Discount for Transylvania County MGVs for Square Foot Gardening Teacher Certification Classes

Square Foot Gardening Teacher Certification Classes will be offered for the first time in the Carolinas on March 4, 5 and 6. Mel Bartholomew, inventor of this gardening method & author of the popular SFG books, will be in Brevard to teach the classes along with MGVs.

Mel is offering a special rate to Master Gardener Volunteers only, since we are sponsoring the classes. The rate is $145 per person or $195 per household of 2 persons. In addition, breakfast and lunch will be available at the classes for $5 and $10 respectively, each day.

Through the classes, Mel and his staff will teach you the newest SFG method, certify you as a teacher of the method, and show you how to create a small business or community outreach opportunities using your certification.

You will be certified in SFG and officially endorsed by the SFG Foundation. You will leave with your certification kit of handouts, CDs & DVDs containing PowerPoint presentations, posters & charts. Mel's focus is to help more people garden: for good nutrition, for reducing their food budgets and for community gardening opportunities. And he is doing this through teaching more people how to teach the SFG method.

EMGVs should register directly with the SFG Foundation by calling Ali at (801)-782-4559. She will make sure you get the special discounted rate. So call her now if you are interested. The classes will run all day March 4 and March 5 and until 2 p.m. on March 6. (Exact times will be determined soon.)

Special thanks to the EMGVs who are helping with these classes: Kristi Stephenson, Elda Brown, Shirley Tesh, Ed Marchini, Bill Jennings, Jeannie Falknor & Maryann Mickewicz. Anyone else who would like to help is more than welcome. Contact Jeannie at 877-6351 or jfalknor1@yahoo.com if you would like to help the organizing committee.

**The deadline date for the April edition will be March 29th Please share any items of interest that you would like to see published in the EMGV Newsletter and send to squillman@citcom.net

Please continue scrolling down as there are several flyers related to coming events.
Square Foot Gardening Certification Classes

First Time Offered in the Carolinas!

Sponsored by Transylvania County Master Gardener Volunteers

Learn all about the popular Square Foot Gardening method. And learn how to teach it: It’s fun. It’s easy. It’s simple.

Mel Bartholomew, inventor of this gardening method and author of the popular SFG books, will be in Brevard to teach the classes, along with Master Gardener Volunteers.

**When:** March 4, 5 and March 6

**Where:** Transylvania County Library, 212 S. Gaston Street, Brevard

**Registration Fee:** $165 per person ($215 per household of 2 persons), plus travel, meals and lodging

Mel and his staff will:

- Teach you the newest Square Foot Gardening method
- Certify you as a teacher of the method
- Show you how to create a small business or community outreach opportunities using your certification

You will learn such things as:

- The 10 basics of SFG
- Crops to plant in different seasons
- Special gardening techniques such as vertical gardening
- Good composting and watering practices
- Gardening for all people: young, older and people with disabilities
- How to conduct a talk, class or SFG workshop
- How to identify community opportunities for using SFG

You will become certified in Square Foot Gardening and officially endorsed by the SFG Foundation. And you will leave with your certification kit of handouts, CDs and DVDs containing PowerPoint presentations, posters and charts.

Mel’s focus is to help more people garden: for good nutrition, for reducing their food budgets and for community gardening opportunities.

Come learn from Mel Bartholomew, the nation’s #1 gardening author.

REGISTER NOW at [www.squarefootgardening.com](http://www.squarefootgardening.com)
For more information call: 1-(828)-884-3109