EMGV Advisory Board: Tuesday, April 13th at 9:15 a.m.

EMGV Program: Tuesday, April 13th at 10:00 a.m.

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.”

Upcoming Program: Tuesday, May 11th

In May, EMGV Annie Martin will talk to us about “Going Green with Moss.” She will talk about moss as a viable horticultural choice as long as you follow right place, right plant concepts. Her talk will include moss gardening techniques, moss cultivation and more. There will be a brief discussion of moss demonstration projects that will be part of the plans for renovating Silvermont.

Looking ahead, EMGV Gail Comer will share her expertise on herb gardening with us at our June meeting
Transylvania County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Training
2010 Class Agenda

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

This has been a particularly busy month for the Master Gardener Volunteers. Early in March we were the first Master Gardener Association to sponsor Mel Bartholomew’s Square Foot Gardening Trainer Certification workshop. Twenty-nine people took part, most from North Carolina and the rest from 5 other states and Canada. By any measure it was a big success. Thanks to Jeannie Falknor and Cindy Stevenson for heading up the workshop, and to all the members who pitched in to handle the myriad details that made for a first class program.

Congratulations are in order for our four newly certified SFG Trainers: Jeannie, Cindy, Gail Comer and Susan Sunflower!

Thanks also to all the people who pulled together to make the Spring Workshop a big success. Our publicity drew a big crowd. I don’t have the final figures on attendance, but we set up more than 150 chairs originally and we had to pull more out of the closet. The set-up crew had the place looking great. Registration went smoothly and quickly. The presenters did a fantastic job. The audience asked lots of good questions and shared some of their own experiences. We sold quite a few SFG books and at least one rain barrel. The refreshments were wonderful and plentiful. We had enough help to get cleaned up and out of the library by about 2:30.

I’ve had several people stop me to tell me how well done it was and how much they enjoyed it. As an organization we can be proud of a job well done!
Silvermont planning continues to move along. Thanks to Kathy Johnson we now have a design for upgrading and expanding existing gardens and for building several new ones. We are fast approaching the point where we will move from planning and design into implementation.

Next up is our annual plant sale. Be thinking of what you can pot and sell.

From Jeannie Falknor

Square Foot Gardening Teacher Symposium:

The teacher certification symposium in early March was a great success. So said author and SFG founder Mel Bartholomew, as well as the participants. There were 29 in the class, coming from Brevard, several other North Carolina cities, Pennsylvania, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky. And we had one participant from Canada.

Mel thanked Transylvania Master Gardeners for being the first MGV group to sponsor a symposium. He hopes that others will follow our lead. The two Buncombe County Master Gardeners who attended said they hope now to get Mel to come there and do a symposium.

We all learned a lot about SFG. Because we built two gardens as part of the symposium, we now have all those materials which we can use at Silvermont as part of our vegetable demonstration gardens. Four of our MGVs were certified: Gail Comer, Susan Sunflower, Kristi Stephenson and me. Many MGVs contributed to the success of the symposium. Kristi and I were co-teachers in-training working with Mel each day. Shirley Tesh, Marion Buchler, Elda Brown, Ed Marchini and Dee Willem Veenhof worked very hard at set-up, registration, book sales and coordinating meals and snacks for the participants each day.

Bill Jennings helped with set up, introduced Mel the first day and entertained Mel Saturday afternoon and evening showing him the beauty of Transylvania County.

Elda Brown took Mel to the Biltmore on Sunday and treated him to a picnic lunch before he headed for the airport.

Eric Caldwell welcomed participants the first day and was on hand throughout the symposium to help out and show support.

And last, but certainly not least, Maryann Mickewicz worked behind the scenes providing tons of support with copying materials, making nametags, making graduation certificates, and doing all those last minute things that always come up for an event like this.

So thanks to everyone for making this a very successful event.
Many thanks to Barbara Belli, Molly Jenkins and Carol Pohl of the 2010 class for volunteering to co-lead the Publicity committee of the Marketing team. They got off to a terrific start by coordinating the publicity for the March 27 spring workshop. They organized distribution of flyers, developed an updated list of media contacts, wrote news stories and began the process of establishing a publicity template to use for all Master Gardener events and projects needing promotion. The great attendance at the workshop is a tribute to their efforts and all those who participated in getting the word out! Thanks to these great new class members for taking the lead. Also a special thanks to Annie Martin for producing an eye-catching flyer in very short time for our Spring Workshop. We are lucky to have her graphic skills on our marketing team. Thanks, Annie.

From Ed Marchini

As mentioned by Kathy Johnson in the March newsletter, Earth Day this year will be held at South Broad Park on April 24th beginning at 8:30am. As the coordinator for this event, I ask EMGV help in setting up and running this event. Four people are needed to set up the canopy. I believe I have three so far. Set-up people should be at the CSB building at 7:45am Saturday morning. As for manning the tables during the plant sale, I ask that volunteers please come at any time convenient for you. Ideally, we should have at least two people manning the booth at all times during the sale.

If you have any plants to sell, please identify them and include any pertinent information about them. Plants can be dropped off at the learning lab at the Extension office between 10:00am and noon on Wednesday, April 21. You may also bring plants in between 3:00 and 5:00pm on Friday, April 23. I will be there to receive them. Whatever day you choose is fine, or you may even bring them to the plant sale table on the 25th.

My phone number is 891-9490 or e-mail: tanded@bellsouth.net

From Elda Brown, Library Rain Garden Coordinator

The Rain Gardens at the Transylvania County Library is an ongoing Demonstration Project of the Transylvania County Extension Master Gardeners. Every Thursday morning beginning April 15, we will be working at the garden for two hours. This is a very visible project because so many of library patrons and staff see the gardens and it is a great way to get your volunteers hours. You may volunteer as often as you are able. You don't have come
every week and you don't have to R.S.V.P. Just register your e-mail address with Project Coordinator Elda Brown at eldabrown@gmail.com to receive reminders each week. Then show up when you can.

Rain gardening will be the subject of the May 3 training session for the new class of Master Gardeners. Eric Caldwell will be giving the presentation and we will visit the Library Rain Garden. Anyone interested in learning more about rain gardening is invited to attend that class, which begins at 1:00 pm. If you plan to work on the Library Rain Garden project this year you are especially encouraged to attend the rain gardening training session on May 3 as we will be recruiting help from the new class. Hope to see you there.

From Helen Smith

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 Gail Comer

On Thursday, March 25 we held an open work session at the herb garden. The weather was fine and we had a good crowd. The current MGV class was well represented with eight members, Barbara Belli, Maureen Copelof, Edie Gabcik, Hope Jordan, Karen Mitchell, Anne Pevehouse, Carol Pohl and Betty Schenfeld. Three old timers, Gail Comer, Karen Koelling, and Ann Hubbard rounded out the team. Many hands make light work and in about two hours we had done a spring cleaning and general tidying up. Because the herb garden is in a state of transition we will wait to do any plantings, we did remove the falling down pallet compost bins which had become an eyesore. The overgrown barberry in the knot garden was pruned and some were potted to be sold at Earth Day. A mutual vote decided that we would make Thursday mornings, 9 to 12ish as herb garden work days. See you all next Thursday

Save the date – April 30, May 1 and May 2- Herb Festival at Asheville Farmers Market. It is a delight for the senses!!!

From Kathy Johnson

Here is a good link from the Washington Post. (I tried it and liked it. Susan Quillman)


This additional link from the Washington Post has a great teaching video on choosing plants from the nursery.
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. Also - (weather-permitting) – start potting up plants to be sold on Earth Day.

From Susan Quillman

The March/April 2010 issue of Garden Plugs is available for your reading enjoyment at the link listed below. Just click on the link and your on your way (you must be able to view a PDF in order to open the link). http://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu/files/library/45/GPMar-Apr2010.pdf

To get on the emailing list for the Henderson County Garden Plugs newsletter, contact:
Ivylyn Olson
County Extension Secretary
North Carolina Cooperative Extension
Henderson County Center
828-697-4891
http://henderson.ces.ncsu.edu

From Joyce Pearsall

Even with the snow covering our gardens, I'm thinking about monarch butterfly season this fall. As soon as the common milkweed starts to sprout, hopefully later in March or--maybe April this year, I'll have plenty to share with those who want milkweed in their gardens. It is best to transplant them when they're small. And they'll be free (my favorite word).

Please consider becoming a Monarch Waystation. It's really very easy. To access more information go to www.monarchwatch.org and click on "Monarch Waystation Program." There is much more on this topic and I'm always happy to talk about it. I hope to get to the plant clinic more this year than last. My email jepearsall@citcom.net.

COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST:
Voluptuous, Dressy Dahlias Featured at Annual Spring Plant Sale

The exotic, colorful, blooms of the Dahlia will be featured as the plant to grow and arrange at the French Broad River Garden Club Spring Plant sale. This annual sale will be held on Saturday April 24th from 9am to 3pm at Clem’s Cabin, 1000 Hendersonville Rd. in Asheville, NC. In addition to dahlias as the featured plant, perennials, herbs, native plants, ferns and shrubs will be aplenty as the club hosts 17 WNC plant growers. These vendors will bring their best plants, their wise advice, and their contagious enthusiasm for all things garden. Visitors will also be able to purchase plants grown from Garden Club Member’s gardens. Bring a friend and enjoy this annual ode to Spring gardening, horticulture, conservation and more. Delicious homemade sandwiches will be offered for those who want to pick up lunch and enjoy the day. Credit Cards will be accepted.

The French Broad River Garden Club Foundation is a chartered member of the Garden Club of America and a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the conservation, development and intelligent use of the natural resources of North Carolina and elsewhere. Proceeds from this sale will go towards supporting this mission.

For more information, please contact Plant Sale Chairperson, Annie Ager 273-6236, annieeager@ioa.com

Spring Plant Sale at Bullington Center, Friday, April 30th from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. Call 698-6104 for more information.

April 30 Days in the Garden, Botanical Gardens at Asheville, Friday, 1 - 6 pm, plant sales.

& May 1 Saturday, 8 am - 3 pm, plants, products, crafts, garden information, programs.

From Mitch Russell

I am primarily writing today to pass along information on the NC Native Plant Society's, NCNPS, Spring Field Trip on 30 April - 2 May in Transylvania Co. It will be a great way for folks to learn about the NCNPS and specific sites for native plants in Transylvania Co. Thus far scheduled:

  Friday - hike w/Annie Martin, Mossin' Annie
  Saturday - hike in Dupont and
  Sunday - hike in Pisgah National Forest near the Wildlife Education Center.

There will also be informal presentations on Friday and Saturday as well as a plant sale on Saturday. For more info visit, http://www.ncwildflower.org/index.php/site/event_details/calendar-ncnps-annual-spring-field-trip/

Lafayette Hill, PA March 8, 2010 — Smaller available spaces for gardens, a national movement to forego the use of synthetic chemicals in the environment and a desire to utilize low maintenance and native plants are all addressed in A Year in a Rock Garden – An Organic Gardening Guide. Published by CreateSpace, an Amazon group company.

According to OrganicGardening.com, sales of organic products are estimated to have topped $25 billion in 2008.

“...There’s more capital going into organic agriculture than ever before.” (Michael Pollan).

Ron Kushner, the author, is a Master Gardener and Pennsylvania Certified Horticulturist who has spent many years establishing and maintaining gardens utilizing organic methods. He is a graduate of The Barnes Foundation Horticultural Program and his organic internship was served at Worden Farm in Punta Gorda, Florida. He is employed by Albrecht’s Nursery and Garden Center in Narberth, PA.

Specific gardens are featured each month, along with Kushner’s own garden, photographs, specific garden chores, directions and organic practices for an entire year.

Throughout the book readers will:

- Understand specific gardening direction as to what must be accomplished each month.

- Have guidelines for gardening organically without the use of synthetic chemical products.

- Be given input on specific plants, their needs, bloom time, flower color and an appendix of close to 300 appropriate plants and their cultural needs.

- Learn which plants are to be avoided.

- Have a comprehensive list of sources for seeds, plants, gardening tools and supplies.
• Be advised of the up-to-date explanation of what the term “organic” actually means in the United States today.

• Be introduced to a different rock garden setting every month

The most popular, comprehensive rock gardening books were published in Great Britain in the 1930’s and this work is the first rock gardening book ever published with organic gardening guidelines and methods.

Contact: Ron Kushner info@ronsorganicgarden.com 484-433-8846

To purchase a copy: www.ronsorganicgarden.com or www.amazon.com

There has been some discussion about the dull (and not very inspiring) name of this newsletter – Master Gardener’s Newsletter. I think that we can come up with a cleverer name. So, I am asking you to submit any names that you can come up with that will be “appropriate” and then I will post them in the May edition, and we can vote. What do you think????

Susan Quillman, editor

**The deadline date for the May edition will be April 26th

Please share any items of interest that you would like to see published in the EMGV Newsletter and send to squillman@citcom.net