MASTER GARDENERS’ NEWSLETTER—February 2010
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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 Tuesdays usually at the Community Services Building in Brevard

MGV Program:  Monday, February 15th at 12 noon
The February meeting will be our annual Soup & Salad luncheon with the new MGV class, so the date and time are a little different than usual. The luncheon will be Monday, February 15 at noon. Thanks to those of you who volunteered to bring soup, salad, bread and desserts. Kathy Johnson will send out a separate email reminding you of what you promised to bring. Another feature of the February meeting is a visit from the President of the North Carolina Master Gardeners, Bob Kellam. Bob will give us a short presentation on the state level group and what it has to offer. Let’s plan for a great welcome to the new MGV students and to our NCMGV visitor!

Upcoming Program:  Tuesday, March 9th  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.

Notes from fellow MGVs:

From Marion Buehler
In only a few more weeks the MGV Garden Clinic will be starting up again for the 2010 gardening season. I still need monthly chair people for March, May and October. Kim Spencer has said she would take whichever month no one else wants, so I need two more folks to step up and volunteer to be in charge of the clinic for a month. It requires only that you be there from 10:00 until 1:00 each Wednesday of the month, make sure the paperwork gets done, and be sure everything gets put away and locked up at the end of the session. You'll have lots of help, so don't worry about knowing what to do. Whether you're "in charge" or simply participating, this is a great way to fulfill your hours, learn a lot, serve the community and just have fun. You don't have to sign up to participate. Just show up wearing your badge and a smile!

From Bill Jennings
Transylvania MGVs 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 MGV membership informed as this process goes forward. Feel free to jump in at any point.

**Ed Marchini and the Rocketing Rain Barrel**

Ed Marchini, Transylvania County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer reports of a near miss incident at his home involving his neighbor’s rain barrel. During the very cold weather this year, Ed’s neighbor’s rain barrel froze solid as the neighbor did not drain it down to accommodate the expansion of ice. The rain barrel, which was not manufactured by Master Rain Barrel Maker Erwin Hittel, bulged out on the bottom, creating a rounded and therefore unstable base. During one of the recent wind storms that gusted through the area, the rain barrel was blown off its perch and proceeded to barrel down the neighbor’s driveway, into the street, and straight towards the Marchini’s garage door. Due to expert landscape planning and a bit of luck, the 400 pound plastic-encased iceberg hurtling down the street was deflected by a berm in the Marchini’s front yard. It rocked to a stop with no severe damage to persons or property, save for the spigot of the barrel which was found in tatters in the road. Ed has presented this tale as a caution to rain barrel owners to at least partially drain your barrel prior to freezing weather to prevent possible mishaps, be they life threatening or just a split barrel that no longer serves the purpose for which it is intended.

**From Helen Smith**

Here are the Western Carolina Botanical Club programs which the MGVs are invited to attend at the Bullington Center in Hendersonville for February.

Friday, February 26, 2010 **Nine Times State Park**
Presenter: Adrienne Austin, TNC
Time: 2pm
Location: Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC
Ms. Austin, from the South Carolina Nature Conservancy will give a PowerPoint presentation about "Nine Times State Park" which may not be a state park yet. She will tell us about the acquisition of land in the foot hills of South Carolina and its importance as a connector to other preserves.

Friday, February 26, 2010 **Blue Ghost Flies**
Presenter: Jennifer Frick-Rupert
Time 2pm
Location: Bullington Center, Hendersonville, NC
Come and hear the special story about these fireflies that seem to like DuPont State Forest and are described as "a floating phenomena that some say resembles little elves carrying pale blue candles".

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

From Maryann Mickewicz
The 2010 rain barrels are rolling in. This year a few barrels will introduce a new color, Spring Green. The remainder will be the ever popular Gentian Blue. As always, all parts are non-corroding and include a unique and effective mosquito excluder. Barrels can be easily linked together for additional capacity. Barrels are $75 and are available at the Transylvania County Extension Service office.

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 Master Gardener Volunteers 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.

MGVs 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 MGVs 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 March edition will be Feb. 22nd
Please share any items of interest that you would like to see published in the MGV Newsletter and send to squillman@citcom.net**
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