

# Session Descriptions and Speakers' Biographies

2007 Tennessee Master Gardener Conference  
“*Growing a New Tomorrow*”  
June 8 – 10  
Kingsport, TN  
Meadowview Resort and Convention Center



## Friday Breakout Sessions

### A The Kitchen Garden

#### A1 **Edible Landscapes** Dr. Richard Moyer

Dr. Moyer and his wife Ginny have been growing fruits, berries, and nuts in their 2 acre home landscape for more than ten seasons, providing all the fruit and most of the vegetables for their family of eight. Their 25 kinds of fruit include many less common selections including native plants and many from Asia. Discover how to gain a similar bounty from your own yard.

Dr. Richard Moyer is a Professor of Biology at King College in Bristol Tennessee. His research interests include the cultivation of minor and unusual fruits and sustainable fruit production.

#### A2 **Herbs as Companion Plants** Joy Moore

Herbs make wonderful companions throughout the landscape. Their colors, textures, and fragrances add beauty to the garden, while their appeal to beneficial insects makes them valuable allies in creating a diverse, environmentally friendly landscape.

Joy Moore is a TN Lifetime Master Gardener. She is a founding member of SAPs (Southern Appalachian Plant Society) and an active volunteer at local historical sites and with Keep Kingsport Beautiful.

#### A3 **The Search for Old Apples** Tom Brown

Master Gardeners can assist in the quest to preserve and reintroduce heritage apple varieties through plant sales and the creation of preservation orchards.

Although professionally an engineer, Tom Brown has had a life-long passion for apples, finding over 600 of the old varieties.

#### A4 **Heirloom Vegetable Varieties** Dr. Allen Straw

Rediscover the tasty vegetable varieties once savored by your grandparents.

Dr. Richard Allen Straw is an Area Specialist in Horticulture, Small Fruit and Specialty Crops with the SW Virginia Agriculture and Research Extension and instructor at Virginia Tech.

## **B Gardening With Mother Nature**

### **B1 The Fungus Among Us** Tom Cox and Brad Jones

Habitat requirements, fungi identification, and local varieties are just a few of the topics covered in this presentation.

Brad Jones, a member of the 2005 master gardener class, is a Park Naturalist with Winged Deer Park in Johnson City. Tom Cox is an amateur mycologist who, with Brad, has identified and classified mushrooms in NE Tennessee.

### **B2 Native Perennials for the Home Landscape** Christy Shivell

Why rely on often temperamental foreign flowers when there are so many beautiful natives well adapted to local growing conditions? Christy will share her personal experience growing over 250 varieties of native perennials, woody plants, herbs, and heirlooms and present her favorites.

Christy Shivell is the owner operator of Shy Valley Plant Farm in Fall Branch, TN and an active member of the Southern Appalachian Plant Society.

### **B3 Our Wild Tennessee: Creating Habitat for Local Wildlife** Tonya Clifford

Discover the 5 basic elements that make your yard wildlife friendly and enable you to receive National Wildlife Federation certification. Learn what's involved in the certification process and see some Tennessee success stories.

Tonya Clifford, a 5 year veteran Master Gardener with Sumner County, has been a National Wildlife Foundation certified Habitat Host/Steward for 4 years and last year received the Presidential Stewardship Award for her volunteer work with both adults and children.

### **B4 Landscaping Techniques to Reduce Urban Storm Water Runoff** Dodd Galbreath

This talk includes a review of innovative methods in natural landscaping to cleanse water and reduce storm runoff such as: the use of native plants, rain gardens, green roofs, water harvesting, and porous paving.

Dodd Galbreath has worked in conservation for 23 years at the federal, university and state levels. He is currently with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Section working on natural water management systems in urban areas.

## **C Ornamental Horticulture**

### **C1 Great Underused Trees and Shrubs: Some Top Picks from the ETSU Arboretum**

Dr. Timothy McDowell

This talk samples some seldom seen favorites from the Arboretum's collection and includes such topics as off-peak season flowers, sweet-flowering shrubs, and ideal evergreens.

Dr. McDowell is an associate professor of Biological Sciences at ETSU. In addition to teaching various botany courses he curates the herbarium and directs the ETSU Arboretum.

**C2 Dwarf Conifers: Color, Texture, and Form** Michael Balogh  
Thoughts on using dwarf conifers as living art in your landscape.

Michael Balogh is the founder of Mountain Meadows Landscape and Mountain Meadows Nursery. Two of his landscapes are listed on the Smithsonian Institute's "Archives of American Gardens". Landscapes of his design are frequently included in garden tours. Michael Balogh is a past president of the Southeast Region American Conifer Society.

**C3 Japanese Gardens** Robert McDuffie  
Dr. McDuffie took a group to Japan to visit Japanese gardens last May and will talk to our group about the history of Japanese Gardens, using his many photos to illustrate design principles.

Dr. Robert McDuffie is a Landscape Architect and an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Virginia Tech.

**C4 Designing with and Caring for Ornamental Grasses** Anda Divine  
Explore the use of perennial ornamental grasses. Approximately 25 varieties will be shown along with ideas for groupings and companion plantings. The discussion will also include grass selection, planting, and care instructions.

Anda Divine is the owner of Heather Hill Farm located in Abingdon, Virginia, whose offerings include perennial grasses from the small to the mammoth (20 feet!). She also consults on garden design. Her garden displays are open to the public by appointment only.

## **D Problem Solving**

**D1 Invasive Exotic Plants within TN's Natural Areas** Terri Hogan  
Why are these plants a problem and why should we care? Learn the answers as well as how these plants get on the "list", why and how it's being revised, and what kind of "mapping" will take place next year.

Terri Hogan is an ecologist with the Stone River Natural Battleground. She currently serves on the Board of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council.

**D2 Renovating Perennial Gardens** Bob Schell

After you've completed your landscape design and planted your beautiful perennial gardens you're finished, right? Not really, most perennial plants require periodic specialized care. Let a perennial specialist share his methods to keep your plants in tiptop shape

Bob Schell, along with his wife Robin, is the owner of Heritage Gardens in Greeneville TN.

- D3 The Extension Service's Most Frequently Asked Questions** Chris Ramsey and friends  
Anyone dealing with the public has been asked "Why are there ladybugs in my living room?" Learn the answer to this and other frequently asked questions from a panel of extension agents from across the state of Tennessee.

Chris Ramsey is the UT Extension Agent for Sullivan County and is responsible for the Master Gardener program in a 5 county area of Northeast Tennessee. He is also a member of the advisory board. Booker Leigh is the UT Extension Agent and Master Gardener coordinator for Tipton County. He was formerly the program coordinator in Shelby County.

- D4 CSI for Plant Problems** Tom Stebbins  
Solving plant problems requires the techniques of a detective. Developing your observational skills and learning to ask the right questions are key in the accurate diagnosis of problems. Discover how this process works with a series of real life case studies.

Tom Stebbins is a UT Extension Agent with Hamilton County. Previously he has worked as the Plant Disease Diagnostician for the state of Tennessee as well as a State Regulatory Plant Pathologist.

## **E Nuts and Bolts**

- E1 Weeding Out Those Aches and Pains** Don Campbell  
Do you ever feel sore or ache after time in the garden? Find out how to better take care of your body and learn to prevent some of that pain and stiffness.

Don Campbell, MS, Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, is Clinical Manager with Wellmont Hospital Sullivan Rehab Center in Kingsport, TN. He has worked in health care for 18 years and frequently speaks on topics including ergonomics and back education/proper lifting techniques.

- E2 Beginning and Newcomer Gardening Classes** Mike Payne  
Learn how to set up, and enjoy the benefits of, holding garden classes for newcomers in your area.

Mike Payne is a 13 year MG with Hamilton County, is a past county president and current state advocate. He is a regular contributor to Tennessee Gardener Magazine and

appears on local TV spots. He has additionally taught gardening subjects for the Univ. of Tennessee.

- E3 Develop a HUG Program in Your Community** David Craig and Diana Wolfram  
HUG is a master gardening program in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity whose mission is to educate and assist Habitat homeowners in the landscaping of their new homes using donated plants, materials, and best management practices (BMPs) to protect people, pets, and the environment.

David Craig is a master gardener from Knox County and a current state advocate. Diana Wolfram is Family Services Director with Knoxville Habitat.

- E4 Junior Gardener Day Camp** Doris Weakley  
Discover how to start a Jr. MG's camp in your county. Find out what materials you will need: UT forms, UTE publications and other educational items. A DVD from the first Jr. Gardeners camp will be shown.

Doris Weakley is a master gardener from Davidson County. She is a past president of her county and a current member of the state advocacy board.

## **Saturday Sessions:**

### **Light and Shadow in the Garden** Carol Reese

Design a garden that plays with light and shadow in ways that beckon and charm.

Carol Reese is an ornamental horticulture specialist with the UT extension service. She is a regular contributor to the *Tennessee Gardener* and the Q & A columnist for *Horticulture* magazine. She also writes a gardening column for the *Jackson Sun* as well as co-hosting *Earth Tones*, a regional gardening TV show.

### **Attracting Birds to Your Backyard** Dr. Fred Alsop, III

Dr. Fred Alsop, III is an accomplished ornithologist and a professor of biological sciences at East Tennessee State University. He is the author of 14 books including *Backyard Birds of Tennessee*.

### **Gardening for the Future** Eric Johnson

Sponsored by Park Seed Company, [www.parkseeds.com](http://www.parkseeds.com).

Learn about the latest horticultural developments in new and exciting plants.

Eric Johnson is the Corporate Head of Horticulture for the Park Seed family of brands, overseeing the selection of new products. He previously worked as Head of Research, Development, and Propagation for Select Trees and as Head of Horticulture worked with research on plant propagation techniques for Southern Sun BioSystems.

**Lasagna Gardening: No Digging, No Tilling, No Weeding, No Kidding!** Patricia Lanza

Gardening doesn't have to require backbreaking labor, instead emulate Mother Nature's own techniques in your garden.

Patricia Lanza is a prolific writer of a gardening column, magazine articles, and books. Her most recent book is *Lasagna Gardening with Herbs*. She is a frequent guest on both radio and television programs and has appeared at many home and garden shows as well as major flower shows.

**Bonsai, A Legacy of Beauty** Warren Hill

Be prepared to learn about Bonsai, the sculptural art in which living trees serve as inspiration and the medium. Hear about the many tree species that can be shaped into bonsai, as well as the rich Japanese culture that spawned this unique art form.

Warren Hill teaches at *Tree-Haven, Warren Hill's School of Bonsai*, in addition to conducting lectures, demonstrations and workshops for numerous organizations. He is also the author of numerous articles on Bonsai. Prior to his busy retirement, Warren Hill was the Supervisory Curator for the United States Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C.

## **Sunday Session:**

**Vertical Accents – A Pictorial Look at Plants with Strong Vertical Accents** Hugh Conlon

New residential homes are larger and leave less green space in the outdoor living areas. This talk will highlight sensational trees and shrubs, including several new varieties, which display columnar or fastigiata branching form to fit these tight spots.

Hugh Conlon is an Area Extension Specialist – Ornamental Horticulture, with the University of Tennessee. He has written hundreds of garden features and articles for newspapers, newsletters, and magazines. He also has over 40 extension fact sheets under the "Tennessee Great Gardens" logo to his credit. Finally, Hugh writes the regularly appearing "Tree Profile" feature in the *Tennessee Gardener*.