

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Master Gardeners Meeting
May 21st, 6:30pm
Sevier Co. Courthouse

Events & CEU's

Glenmore Garden Market- May 5th 9am-2pm
1280 N. Chuckey Pike, Jefferson City
(865) 475-5014 - Garden lectures, vendors,
garden décor – Beverages and Strawberry
shortcake also available!

Volunteers In The Garden – Sevierville
Senior Center... 1st Saturday of the month
and 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:00am.
Come spend some time helping and earn
volunteer hours!

Friends of the UT Gardens 525-4555

May 12th – Secret Garden Party – Seaboldt-Harris
house and Bluebird Hill

May 12th – Spring Plant & Rummage Sale –
featuring faux bois containers and ornamentals

May 15th - Lunchtime Walk – 12 Noon
Twilight Walk – 6:00pm

May 19th – Secret Garden Party – The Eagle's Nest

June 1st – Secret Garden Party – Riverview

June 2nd – Secret Garden Party – The Friendship
Garden

IJAMS 577-4717

May 5th – 2:00pm Book Talk – “Nature Histories:
Stories From the Tennessee Valley” Author
Stephen Lyn Bates discusses the history of local
favorite wildlife.

May 12th – 1:00pm Living Clean & Green –
Wetlands, Creeks & Watersheds – Learn about the
importance of the Wetlands, creeks and
watersheds you live in.

May 15th – Learn More: Dragonflies – For
Members, Volunteers and Naturalists. David
Trently of UT will help you learn to identify local
species.

May 18th – 5:30pm – Wildflower Walk – Discover
the wildflowers at Ijams! Free for members, \$5 for
non-members.

TMG State Conference

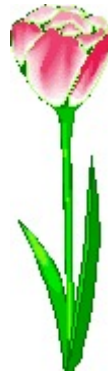
June 8th-10th MeadowView Convention Center
and Resort in Kingsport, TN

<http://tnmgc2007.net>

Reserve this weekend on your calendar! For
those who can't make the entire weekend,
Saturday events and the Garden Market
are available!

Growing Degree Days

By Leo Lubke



The Growing Degree Days for the
month of April ranged from "Zero" to
the 20's each day. Now that we're
"back to normal" we are gaining about
20 GDD's each day. As of April 28th,
we had Accumulated Growing Degree
Days (AGDD) of 471.4. Carpenter
bees aren't prevalent (but will return
later for their second cycle later this
growing season!) and the Eastern

Tent Caterpillars are on the "down swing" or
are absent. We are in the mid-season for the
Dogwood Borer; Bagworm larva will be here at
600 GDD -- treat when most vulnerable. For
other pests that we're in the midst of, or that
are on the horizon, please consult your Insect
Pest Management Chart.

(Note: Have you noticed in the "fruit and
vegetable" newsletters that Alan sends out
the GDD is often given? GDD was a timely
CEU topic!)



Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Member Annual Dues

The following Members have paid their \$15 Annual Dues... Have you?

Liz Ballard...Casey Berg...Gayle Crowe
 George Denton...Judy Denton...Robert Glenn
 Jo Golden...Jim Grubb...Tommi Jo Harrell
 Gayle Holt...Mike Jones...Glenna Julian
 W.C. (Dub) Julian...Barbara King...
 Donna Little...Leo Lubke...Carol MacKenzie
 Colette Mancke...Juneil Mathis
 Sheila Pennycuff ...Pat Powell...Reatha Reil
 Jerry Shonk...Nellie Smith...Jan Sutton
 Randell Tate...John Thomas...
 Margaret Thompson...Richard Wasman
 Les Williams

Please write your check to Sevier Co.
 Extension, and give or mail to:
 Margaret Thompson, Treasurer
 3014 Sugarwood Drive
 Kodak TN 37764

Honey Rock Herb Farm

Those of us who had the pleasure of listening to Jim Brown speak at the Show may be interested in receiving their newsletter. Just email Jim or D at honeyrock@ntown.net, they'll be happy to put you on their list!



The Flower and Garden Show 2007

Yeah, we did it! Our second annual Flower and Garden Show & Sale is over and it was a huge success according to the participants, vendors, exhibitors and speakers.

We sold 494 tickets and accepted 49 free passes. The estimated attendance exceeds 650 including MGs, vendors / exhibitors and their staff, speakers, entertainers and the children. All of our indoor booths were filled though we did have one last-minute cancel. Sales were excellent according to the vendors' surveys. The Master Gardener Plant Sale, the Master Gardener Store and the unplanned Auction of unclaimed door prizes at the end of the event provided income for our organization as noted below in the preliminary report.

REVENUES

Booth rental	\$1,650.00
Program ads	\$300.00
Tickets	\$988.00
MG Plant Sale	\$625.09
MG Store	\$509.40
Auction	\$307.77
Total revenues	\$4,380.26

EXPENSES

Advertising	(\$600.00)
Speakers' fees	(\$100.00)
Merch products	(\$30.31)
Items for MG Store	(\$383.79)
Total expenses	(\$1,114.10)

NET **\$3,266.16**

The Flower and Garden Show Committee met on April 16th to "debrief and decompress." Problem areas were discussed. This report will be shared at our May 21st meeting.

Congratulations to everyone involved for a job well done. It appears the planning and hard work was worth it all!

Margaret & Juneil

Issue 4.07

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Weed Control Without Chemicals

From [David Beaulieu](#),
Your Guide to [Landscaping](#).

"Weed control without chemicals" may conjure up unpleasant thoughts of getting down on your hands and knees in the yard on a hot day and pulling out stubborn weeds by hand. But weed control without chemicals needn't be so primitive, so mindless. In the resources to which I provide links below, I discuss a variety of weed-control components to be used in planting beds. They should be used in conjunction with each other. Weed control without chemicals can be tough work, and I want you to work smarter, not harder. No need to revert to the Stone Age!

The first smart idea in a project of weed control without chemicals is to prepare the plot of ground in question. Just as in a construction project, laying a good foundation is of the utmost importance.

In this context, by "foundation" I mean the state of the ground where your plants will be growing. Implement these ideas **before** you plant, so that you'll get off to a smooth start in your project of weed control without chemicals.

1. Killing Weeds Through Soil Solarization.

Soil solarization is a preventive, organic method of killing weeds -- before they even sprout! The advice below is meant for homeowners wishing to start out with a clean slate, re-landscaping a weed-filled patch of land in such a way as to reduce to a minimum the hassle of weed control in the future. For more information on this technique, please consult the following resource:

2. How to Lay Landscape Fabrics. For those in need of soil solarization (see above), installing landscape fabrics can be considered Step #2 in the project of weed control without

chemicals. For those with less weedy properties, it's Step #1. I promised you above that weed control without chemicals wouldn't mean going back to the Stone Age, and landscape fabrics are a case in point. Landscape fabrics are a hi-tech ally in the battle against weeds. For more information on laying landscape fabrics, please consult the following resource:

3. Using Garden Mulch. As the final element in a good "foundation" for your bed of annuals, perennials or shrubs, you should apply garden mulch on top of the landscape fabric. Many skip right to mulching in the project of weed control without chemicals, but I do advise you to lay the landscape fabric first: it will lengthen the life of your garden mulch.

"Pre-emergent herbicides" is a fancy way of referring to herbicides that attack annual weedy plants at the source: their seeds. That is, they act to inhibit seed germination before the plants in question even have a chance to announce themselves to the world above! For weed control without chemicals, [corn gluten](#) is the preferred pre-emergent herbicide.

By contrast, you apply "post-emergent herbicides" only after the antagonists have appeared on stage. For weed control without chemicals, try vinegar as a weed killer.

In Case You Still End Up *Pulling Weeds*.

With landscape fabric and garden mulch in place, the bad news is that, even then, you may still get weeds. But the good news is that those weeds will be very easy to pull out. Pulling weeds embedded in mulch is not nearly as difficult as pulling weeds embedded in soil. Thus with a good "foundation," you may not even feel the need to bother with the corn gluten and vinegar: 5 minutes of easy pulling here and there should get the job done.

Continued....

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One exception to this may arise: if the integrity of the landscape fabric has been compromised, weeds may strike down roots in the soil beneath, making them difficult to pull out. In this case, water the area in question beforehand. It's usually easier to extricate weeds from moist soil than from dry soil.

Submitted by Rich Wasman

REPORT YOUR HOURS!

Sevier Co. Certification Officer Leo Lubke needs your hours...by telephone, fax, Email or paper ... email: lhlubke@aol.com, or phone the Extension office at 453-3695

Links and Sites

<http://www.treehelp.com/>
<http://plantsciences.utk.edu/>
www.arborday.org
www.pestfacts.org
<http://www.gardensalive.com>
[Starting Plants from Seeds](http://www.friendsoftheutgardens.org)
[friendsoftheutgardens.org](http://www.friendsoftheutgardens.org)
[Mulch Calculator](http://www.mulchcalculator.com)



The Newsletter needs your contribution! Events, pictures and articles are welcome!
Email to jssutton@mindspring.com

Pruning Crapemyrtles with Winter Freeze Damage

You may soon learn that your crapes have been killed to the ground or severely damaged by the low temperatures that occurred around April 7 like mine. If this is the case, the bark will split and peel off. Nick the bark with a knife to confirm that the tissue is indeed dead to the ground. If the bark is not busted and peeling, slice under the bark. The plants will probably recover from a light caramel color under the bark but not from a medium or darker shade or brown.

Use a chain saw, pruning saw or loppers to cut the stems as close to the ground as convenient. This will make way for the new growth. When the new stems have reached a height of 3 to 4 feet or so, begin to select 3 to 5 of the stronger stems and cut the others back as low as convenient.

Allow the selected stems to grow naturally. Branches on the lower third of the plants can be removed from the trunks the following March. Periodically remove new basal suckers, growth that appears on the lower stems and branches that grow to the center or rub.

The glorious part of this opportunity is the ugly gnarly pruning wounds that would be present from annual topplings, will be removed and gone forever. Avoid them by never topping your crape myrtles again.

Maintain 2-3 inches of mulch with none within 2-3 inches of the stems. Extend the mulch 2-3 feet out from the stems. Water thoroughly once a week in the absence of meaningful rainfall. We are much drier than normal.

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Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

Greetings from the Weather Rock

Sorry for the lack of the Weather Rock articles the past two months! We had been busy in our apple orchard, trying to prepare for the weather that arrived the first week of April. We had received a warning around the first of March that there was going to be an unusually cold period sometime around the first of April. Well, it was!! It is not unusual to have a frost or near freezing temps around that time....and we can prepare for this....but, we had four nights of sub-28 degrees.... most in the low twenties ...and at least one night below 18 degrees. The fruit growers in N. Alabama, N. Georgia, N.C., Kentucky, S.C., and TN, lost almost 100% of their crops, including us!!! It was historical cold! There is NO record of four plus nights of severe cold like this, as far back as records are kept!!!! You saw history! Nationwide, it was the COLDEST April on record....and....the Nor'easter, the big storm that hit New England, had a barometric pressure as low as a Cat II hurricane....and this was a never-seen-before storm, also. The cold is successfully competing with the warmth. The complete stats on the winter are not yet in, since it lasted so long. I'll have more on this next month.

What's up for us? The last week of April started a real, genuine, warm-up....followed by a minor cooling spell the end of the first week of May....the fact is, New England may have a short period where their fruit crops may sustain damage, like us. Then, we should warm up to normal May temps....but....as far as rain goes, we may have some showers the end of the first week....then....the drought continues for the Tennessee Valley and the deep South!....perhaps until hurricane season starts. We continue to be in a rain deficit period.

Soil temps are warming and gardens are going in....hurrah!! Spring is finally here.

Have a great month!

From a "recovering" Weather Rock.

Jack Bailey

