

SCAMGA April Meeting: Monday, 6/15/09 - 6:30 pm
Rainwater Harvesting — Joy Stewart (UT)

Organic Certification in Tennessee

A growing number of people are becoming interested in organic production, especially organic vegetable production. But just what does organic production and certification mean?

A new fact sheet by University of Tennessee Extension vegetable specialist Annette Wszelaki and other experts attempts to cover the basics for producers. Available on-line at <http://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications>, the publication Organic Production in Tennessee, answers the basic questions posed by those just

beginning to become curious about the process.

For example, the authors define organic production as methods that minimize the use of purchased off-farm inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides, while maximizing the use of on-farm practices that promote naturally occurring ecological relationships.

The publication touches on topics such as how to get certified as an organic producer and the penalties for falsification of certification. It also briefly describes costs associated

with certification. Wszelaki says the cost of certification varies depending on farm size, gross farm sales and distance travelled by the inspector. She also cautions producers that there is a cost associated with maintaining certification. "To maintain organic certification, producers must re-certify each year and pay annual application and inspection fees. In Tennessee, annual certification costs generally range from \$500 to \$700," Wszelaki said.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) admin-

isters a cost-share program funded by the USDA to help reduce the cost of organic certification for producers.

The UT Institute of Agriculture, through its Extension and AgResearch units, is maintaining an on-line information resource for interested producers. See <http://organics.tennessee.edu/>

W. Alan Bruhin,
Extension Director
752 Old Knoxville Highway
Sevierville, TN 37862
(865)-453-3695

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Submissions: If you have information, articles, CEU or volunteer opportunities you would like published in the SCAMGA newsletter, please send to Alison Stokes at P.O. Box 5767, Sevierville, 37864 or lysnwolf@yahoo.com. Deadline is the 26th of each month. Thank You!

Gourds Part II: Using Gourds

By Roger Simpson

Continued from the May newsletter article "Growing Gourds."

A vegetative skin that you will want to take off covers the gourd. The easiest way is to soak the gourd overnight under water. Weigh the gourd down in the water, as they are quite buoyant. After soaking, the skin will be easy to



Dried Gourds- A pile of dried gourd waiting to be cleaned and crafted. Dried gourds will be light and the seeds inside will rattle.

remove. You can use a chore boy or furniture grade steel wool. Just show a little care not to scratch the gourd. If the skin will not all come off, put the gourd back in the water for another day or two. If the use for the gourd does not require any cutting, it is now ready for crafting.

If it needs cutting, think about what you are going to



Open Gourd- Inside the gourd is a fibrous material and seeds.

pocketknife may be used to cut out simple items such as a birdhouse. The key word here is sharp. Cutting with a sharp anything makes the job easier for you and causes

continued on page 2



Trinket Box- This is an easier design to cut. The tung oil finish was smoked with a candle.

make. Its use will point the way for where and how to cut the gourd open. A sharp

continued from page 1

less damage to the gourd. A coping saw or a utility cutter is easy to use. If the cut is critical as far as appearance goes, then an exacto knife is the best. Taping the cut line is a big help as far as keeping the gourd from chipping. In addition, if you miscue on part of your cut it is better to mark a piece of tape than it is the surface of the piece.

Cutting a gourd open is complex only if you plan to use the cut off top as a lid. Then you will need to use a thin blade whether it is an exacto knife or a coping saw. If the gourd's shape will allow, make the cut just where the gourd begins to neck down. That way the top (lid) will be slightly larger than the bottom and seat well. If the item has to have a level cut, as for a bowl, sit the gourd on the floor to visualize the cut. While gourds are round, they are not circular. Because of this, I stand a ruler next to the gourd and hold a marker



Here a Tree Swallow prepares to enter the house with nest building materials.

at right angles to the gourd. The height indicated is then marked around the gourd. If the design requires a straight cut just make it across the gourd. If it is circle, take a circular object like a hose clamp and draw curved lines from point to point. Always make the first cut slightly high, so if you make a mistake there is room for adjustment.

Once the gourd is open,

the fun begins. A fibrous webbing holds the gourd seeds. You must get this out. If you have made a large hole in the gourd, this is easy. Just fill the gourd up with water. The insides will be ready to come out in a couple of hours or a couple of days, depending on the gourd. It will soften and can be scraped out with a spoon. If the opening is too narrow for you to reach inside, fill the gourd up with water and leave it for a week or two. Changing the



The natural beauty of gourds easily lends them to making crafts.

water will prevent any odors. Once the insides are removed, you will see a netted inner surface similar to the skin of a muskmelon. There is nothing more to remove. If you do choose to sand the insides, wear a dust mask. Gourd dust can cause sinus infections, so be careful.

Any paint or finish used for wood is OK on gourds. The big trick is to start out with a simple project. You will know and understand a lot more after you have cut your first gourd. Most importantly, knowing how to make things out of gourds will give you an excuse for growing them.



Bowls such as this one only require one simple cut. This is a natural finish made with Formby's High Gloss Tung Oil Finish.

Farmer's Markets

ANDERSON CO: Oak Ridge Farmers Market

Jackson Square at Georgia Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN
 Contact: Jo Ann Wilson (865) 947-1449
 E-mail: cww2@worldnet.att.net
 Web: <http://www.easttnfarm.org>
 Wednesdays, 3pm-sellout thru 10/28 & Saturdays 8am-Noon thru 11/28

BLOUNT CO: Maryville Farmers Market

201 South Washington St., Maryville, TN
 Contact: Blount County Agricultural Extension, (865)980-9911
 Web: www.MaryvilleFarmersMarket.org
 9am-Noon from 5/5-10/6

COCKE CO: Newport Farmers Market

Cosby Hwy across from CVS Pharmacy, Newport, TN
 Contact: (423) 237-5187 or UT Extension: (423) 623-7531
 E-mail: terry@chcinc.org
 Saturdays, 9am to sellout from 5/23-9/12

JEFFERSON CO: Dandridge Farmers Market

Parking Lot Corner of Hwy 92 & US Hwy 25/70

Contact: Barbara Garrow (865) 368-9097 or (865) 397-7420 Ext. 17
 Web: <http://www.mainstreetdandridge.com>
 Saturdays 9am-1pm

KNOX CO: Farmers' Association for Retail Marketing

Laurel Church of Christ on 3457 Kingston Pike @ Cherokee Blvd, Knoxville
 Contact: Jo Ann Wilson, (865) 947-1449
 E-mail: cww2@worldnet.att.net
 Web: <http://www.easttnfarm.org>

Tuesdays 3pm-6pm thru 11/24 & Fridays 3pm-6pm thru 11/27

KNOX CO: New Harvest Park Farmers Market

4700 New Harvest Park Lane, Knoxville 37918
 Contact: Neal Denton, UT Ag Ext Agent: (865) 215-2340
 E-mail: wdenton1@utk.edu
 Web: <http://www.knoxcounty.org/parks/index.php>
 Thursdays 4pm-7pm thru 11/20

SEVIER CO: Seymour Farmers Market

1st Baptist Church, 11621 Chapman Hwy, Seymour
 Contact: (865) 453-0130 Lucy Henighan (865) 573-3579
 E-mail: creekhappy@ntown.com
 Saturdays 7:30am-10:30am
 June—August

You're invited to the third annual
Horticulture for Homeowners Field Day
 Sponsored by
UT/TSU EXTENSION, Davidson County and The Davidson County Master Gardeners
 Where:
**Ellington Agricultural Center
 UT Central Region Extension Office
 5201 Marchant Drive
 Nashville, TN 37211**
 When:
**June 20, 2009
 9:00-3:00**
 Admission:
FREE
 Plant Sale! Plant Clinic
 Featuring Master Gardener talks on plants and specialty gardens:
 • Perennial Flowers • Azaleas • Color Wheel
 • Ornamental Grasses • Butterfly Gardens • Basil & Thyme
 • Groundcovers • Shade • Limited Mobility
 • Knockout Roses • Composting Moles • Tufa Pots
 • Grounds on display • White Elephant Sale • Roof Garden
 • Rain Gardens

Tennessee MASTER GARDENER **THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE Extension**

2010 SCAMGA Calendar Requirements

Hello fellow Sevier County Master Gardeners,

The 2010 Yard and Garden Guide & Calendar Planning Committee met last week and asked me to share information with you regarding our progress.

In a “nutshell” we plan to have one version of the calendar for 2010. The format will be slightly different than earlier calendars. In the new design we plan to leave more space to write important activities (e.g., Drs. appointment, CD due, leave on vacation, etc.) for each date. There will be 4 to 5 major tips in banner-style stretching across the week. In addition there will be “Did You Know?” and possibly “What to Plant Now” sections for each month. The topic sections will be expanded to include more gardening information.

New features include References and Additional Resources, reference to our SCAMGA.org Website for additional garden and landscape tips (~20 per month) and a moon phase chart.

The goal is to have calendars printed and available by September.

The committee recommended 250 calendars being printed.

These ARE Sevier County Area Master Gardeners’ calendars and we need your involvement.

CALENDAR TIPS – If you have garden tips that you’d like to share and that are “research-based”, please give them to a “calendar quarter coordinator” for review. These coordinators are Colette Mancke (manckec@bellsouth.net) January – March, Shirley Washam (654-8109) April – June, Donna Little (donnalittle@charter.net) July – September, and Jerry Shonk (jshonk@bellsouth.net) October – December. We will have about 4-5 major tips for each month for the print calendar AND 20-30 per month on our Website. **MG data is due by June 15th.** Alan will review the final version of the tips.

PICTURES – The 2010 calendar will be an opportunity for the Sevier County Master Gardeners to again submit photographs. With unbiased judging, one picture per month will be selected along with a featured calendar cover photograph. Additional pictures may be selected to accompany the topic areas. Specific guidelines are:

1. Each Master Gardener may submit a maximum of 15 photographs.
2. Pictures showing general landscape and garden/flower pictures for the traditional calendar.
3. Our Calendar Committee will “match” photographs with months/seasons. Try to think of the whole year as you select your entries.
4. We will not “carry over” any photographs from earlier years. If you submitted a photograph before that you think is worthy of reconsideration, PLEASE SUBMIT IT AGAIN. Do not resubmit photographs that have appeared in our earlier calendars.
5. “Landscape” (horizontal) photographs fit best in our calendar format. This format is required – no vertical photos will be accepted.
6. The digital format is REQUIRED. “JPG” files are preferred because of file size and are appropriate for this calendar application.
7. **Deadline for submitting photographs is June 15, 2009.**

Remember – Getting out good gardening advice out to the home gardener is one of the Master Gardener goals – this calendar helps us meet this objective!

If you have questions, please contact Leo at 932-9862 or LHLubke@aol.com.

CEU Calendar

MGs are required to complete a min. of 8 CEUs (Continuing Education Units). Before completing any CEU Courses, be sure that you get approval from Alan Bruhin. Below is a list of CEUs that have been approved by Alan for use by the Sevier Co. Master Gardeners:

June:

2nd (Tue) 6-7:30pm:
Erin's Meadow Herb Club Garden Tour and Plant Swap: Clinton, 37716, The focus of the herb club will be herbal education. Learn how to grow and use herbs. www.erinsmeadowherbfarm.com (865) 435-1452

6th (Sat) 9:30am-4pm:
Incredible Edibles and Traditional Medicines Park Headquarters, Smoky Mts Nat'l Park. Spend a day discovering how to identify plants and trees Native Americans and early settlers used for dye, food, medicines, crafts, and other items of daily life. Fee \$49. (865) 974-0150, aceweb.outreach.utk.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~09SU881

6th (Sat) 10:30am: "Plant a Patio Italian Herb Garden" Gardening Workshop Clinton, 37716. Class includes information on growing, harvesting and using fresh herbs. Instructor K. Mihalcz, cost \$38 www.erinsmeadowherb-

farm.com (865) 435-1452

13th (Sat) 9:30am-4pm:
Wildflowers, Ferns and Ecology of Roan Mountain Carver's Gap, Hwy 143. Fee \$49. (865) 974-0150, aceweb.outreach.utk.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~09SU921

13th (Sat) 1pm: Living Clean & Green! Organic Gardening Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville. Free. The basics of organic gardening. To register call Sheila at 577-4717, ext. 10.

20th (Sat) 9am-3pm:
Third Annual Horticulture for Homeowners Field Day Ellington Agricultural Center, 5201 Marchant Dr Nashville, 37211, FREE. Featuring Master Gardener talks on plants and specialty gardens.

27th (Sat) 9:30am-5pm:
Early Summer Wildflowers & Ferns Sugarlands Visitors Ctr, Smoky Mts Nat'l Park. Fee: \$49. (865) 974-0150, aceweb.outreach.utk.edu/CourseStatus.awp?~09SU877



BLOOMS DAYS 09
 Garden Festival & Marketplace

UT GARDENS
June 27th & 28th
 In the UT Gardens on Neyland Drive in Knoxville, TN

Don't miss the garden goods, specialty plants, workshops, music, Kids Corner and lots more!
 Tickets available June 1, 2009!

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT INSTITUTE of AGRICULTURE

bloomsdays.utk.edu

SCAMGA Events and Volunteer Opportunities

June 3rd (Wed): Great Smoky Mountain National Park planting volunteers needed

If interested please contact Cherie Cordell, Biological Science Technician, at 865-436-1706

June 26th-28th (Fri-Sun): Blooms Days

Volunteers Needed About 20 volunteers still needed to help with various tasks including Children's Activities, Runners, Merchandise, Marketplace, and Workshop. Anyone interested in volunteering should submit their name, phone, email, T-Shirt size, day request, assignment request, and shift request to Lisa Phipps, 980-9911, lmnop1@bellsouth.net

Ask the Master Gardener Hotline Volunteers needed Mondays and Wednesdays or Fridays through September. There is a sign-up book in the MG Office. Time slots are typically 8am-noon or 2pm-5pm, although we can work with your schedule. Any help is appreci-

ated and it's a great way to build volunteer hours!

UT Gardens Volunteers: Volunteers are an essential part of the UT Gardens and are involved in a variety of activities such as assisting the garden staff, serving as tour guides, working with special events and programs, and assisting in plant records and labeling. For more information contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (865) 974-7324 or visit <http://utgardens.tennessee.edu/volunteers.html>

UT Arboretum Society

The UT Arboretum Society always needs help in many ways. Opportunities include:

- Plant Sales
- Arboretum Plant Collections
- Special Event Planners
- Fund Raising
- Administrative Support

To learn more about how you can help email utarboretumsociety@gmail.com

Great Smoky Mountains Association

Through sales, labor, donations, and volunteer efforts, GSMA provides the National Park Service with additional tools for fulfilling its mission. (865) 436-7318 or toll free 1-888-898-9102 Carolyn@GSMAssoc.org www.smokiesinformation.org/aboutus.htm

Discover Life in America

All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Volunteer assist with the search for new species in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including collection, sorting and identification. For more information, call DLIA's Executive Director Todd Witcher at (865) 430-4757 or e-mail him at todd@dlia.org. www.dlia.org/dlia/volunteer/index.shtml

Growing Degree Day Update

As of June 1st we were at 1,050.2 growing degree days.

Based on the chart from Cornell University provided by Leo Lubke the following pests are or soon will be on their way, so get ready!

Currently active:

- Cottony maple scale and cottony maple leaf scale - to 1265 GGD
- Cottony taxus scale - to 1388 GGD
- Fletcher scale - to 1388 GGD
- Honeylocust Spider Mite - to 1514 GGD
- Japanese Beetle - to 2154 GGD
- Juniper Scale - to 1260 GGD
- Native Holly Leafminer - to 1266 GGD

- Oak Spider Mite - to 1266 GGD
- Pine Sawflies - to 1388 GGD
- Pine Webworm - to 2000 GGD
- Rhododendron Borer - to 1266 GGD
- White Prunicola Scale - to 1151 GGD

Coming soon:

- Azalea Leafminer (larvae) - 1260-1500 GGD
- Azalea Whitefly (nymphs and adults) - 1250-1500 GGD
- Birch Skeletonizer (larvae) - 1266-1580 GGD
- Boxwood Leafminer (larvae) - 1200-2400 GGD
- Euonymus Scale (crawler) - 1150-1388 GGD
- European Fruit Lecanium

- (crawler) - 1266-1645 GGD
- Fall Webworm (larvae) - 1266-1795 GGD
- Hemlock Scale (crawler) - 1388-2154 GGD
- Juniper Webworm (larvae) - 1645-1917 GGD
- Lace Bugs (nymph, adult) - 1266-1544 GGD
- Leafhoppers (nymph, adult) - 1266-1514 GGD
- Nantucket Pine Tip Moth (larvae) - 1514-1917 GGD
- Oak Skeletonizer (larvae) - 1798-2155 GGD
- Peachtree Borer (larvae) - 1500-1800 GGD
- Pine Needle Scale (crawler) - 129-1917 GGD
- Pine Tube Moth (larvae) - 1151-1514 GGD
- Privet Rust Mite (larvae, nymph, adult) - 1266-1515

- Roundheaded Apple Tree Borer (adult) - 1514-1798 GGD
- Rust Mites (larvae, nymph, adult) - 1644-2033 GGD
- Tuliptree Aphid (nymph, adult) - 1151-1514 GGD
- Twobanded Japanese Weevil (adult) - 1644-2271 GGD
- Twospotted Spider Mite (adult) - 1300-2000 GGD

Remember, this is just a partial list. If you have questions on pests soon to arrive, those already here or those that have "packed their bags" and left, look at the "Using Growing Degree Days for Insect Management" chart, or call Alan (453-3695) or Leo Lubke (932-9862 or 719-9200) for more information.

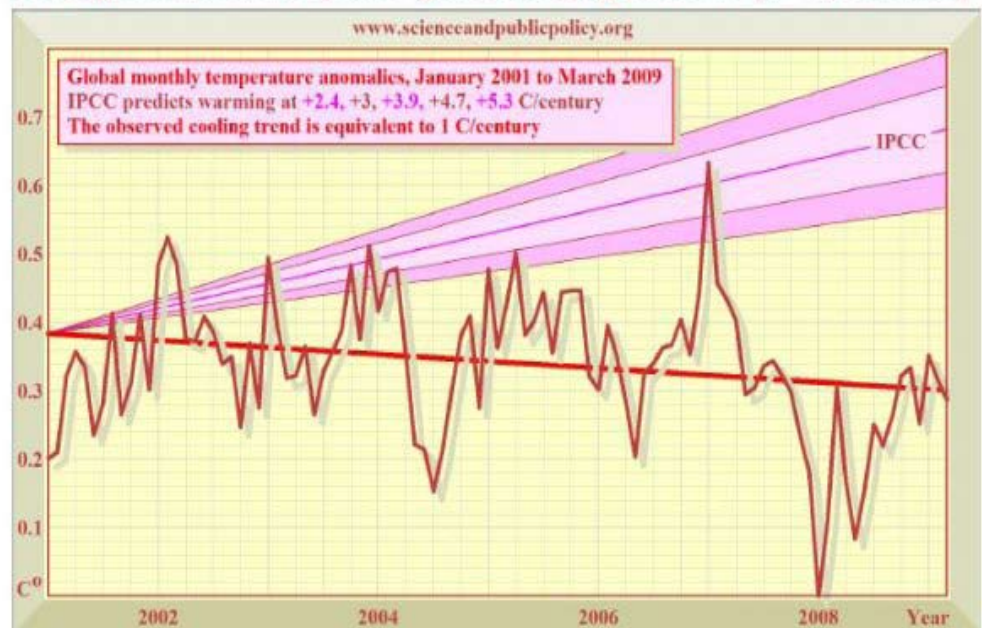
The Weather Rock

June 2009

Greetings from 'The Weather Rock', Let's see...this is May, right?...no...this is June...But last month must have been April...I'm confused...last month was cold, rainy, windy, cloudy and my apple trees were still blooming...even the dogwoods were still blooming during the first week...no, I'm sure this is June (I think!?!). No, I haven't been into the hard cider, but the weather was...a bit strange! Did you know that on May 18, 19, 20, & 21 that there were (nationwide) 467 records of cold broken or tied (that's 280 new records and 189 ties). These were records that have stood since about 1880.

We have now reached a new milestone. Our spotless count (sunspots) has reached 638. That's the number of spotless days for the solar minimum that is currently happening between the end of solar cycle 23 and the start-up of solar cycle 24. Now, only the Maunder Minimum (1660) and Dalton Minimum (1780) have had more 'spotless days'...but we have a way to go before we reach those depths...but...one can see the effect. If you look at the chart, the pink is what the global climate models had predicted. That's the Manmade Global Warming science provided by the UN and others. The red line shows what the temperatures have actually done...global temps have fallen...and

A long downtrend: 8 years' global cooling at 1.8 °F (1 °C) / century



For eight and a half years, global temperatures have exhibited a pronounced downtrend. The IPCC's predicted warming path (pink region) bears no relation to the global cooling that has been observed in the 21st century to date. Source: SPPI global temperature index.

still...all we have is a few proto-spots. Sunspots, magnetic storms on the sun, affect low-level cloudiness. The more sunspots, the less clouds. The fewer sunspots the more clouds...the less irradiance from the sun, the temps go down...it's about cosmic radiation, and this is very oversimplified. Anyway, all this means is that we are being taken back to a different decade of the last century. You know it wasn't long ago...a few decades...that it was not uncommon to have Winter temps that went down to

10 degrees below zero. The forecast by the NWS for the Summer thru Winter is below normal temperatures for our area, lower than last year. We'll see!

Forecast for June...

I'm glad the rain has taken a little vacation and the heat has arrived to dry the ground out. The heat will persist for a couple of weeks...as below average as the temps were last month, we have to have some heat...there must be balance!...but since the ground is so wet...it will be difficult

to heat up. Night time temps will stay in the 60s until the end of next week when it may stay in the 70s. Toward the end of the month...we head back to a little below normal...I don't mind a cooler summer. Most hurricanes, this season, will develop close to the East coast or in the Western Gulf...that's where most of the warm water is...this may keep us from having a dry Summer...I hope so!!

From 'the Weather Rock'
Jack Bailey