

THE SEVIER COUNTY AREA



MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

www.SCAMGA.org

October, 2009

SCAMGA October Meeting: Monday, 10/19/09 - 6:30 pm

Enjoying Butterflies with Lois English

East Tennessee Region Conference Day registration Deadline: October 16th!!!

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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!

AN INTERVIEW WITH JIM ROUHAN

By Roger Simpson

Sevierville is a lucky city indeed, its streets and public buildings are lined with flowers, ornamental trees and scrubs. The beauty that is added to downtown Sevierville can not be missed. Sometimes you will see a man walking the sidewalks and trails spraying or watering the plants. That man would

be Jim Rouhan, Landscape Specialist for Sevierville. People who have met Jim through the classes he has given at Master Gardeners Meetings or through other civic activities know him to be a knowledgeable friend of plants. They also realize that he is “not from around here”. How did he wind up here? Jim’s background in working with plants is extensive. He was born in

Vermont and majored in Plant and Soil Science at the University of Vermont. As a student, Jim became a foreign exchange student in Europe. There he picked up practical knowledge of international agriculture and horticulture. After school, he joined the Peace Corp and went to Costa Rica and Panama. Following this, he worked as a

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REDISCOVERING AN AMERICAN PASTIME: BLACK WALNUTS

by Alan Bruhin

Get your taste buds ready, because it’s black walnut season. Black walnuts are often found in delicious goodies such as pies, brownies and cookies, and fall is the perfect time to prepare such treats.

Black walnuts are not only tasty—they’re healthy as well. Black walnuts, help to promote weight loss and are rich in Omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 is missing from most Americans’ diets because we consume a large number of processed foods.

Even though black walnuts are enjoyable to

consume, few still know how to harvest them and get them ready to be the delicious ingredient in a pie.

If this is your first time working with black walnuts, don’t be worried, it’s not only easy—it’s fun! There are four parts to preparing walnuts: harvesting, curing, cracking, and storing.

Black walnuts are typically harvested in Tennessee in October. You can tell if a walnut is ripe by pressing your thumb on to the skin. If your thumb makes an indentation, then the black walnut is ready

to be picked. For optimal quality in the nut meats, the nuts should be picked up and hulled as soon as possible. Delaying this process can result in the meats developing a dark color and strong flavor.

After harvesting the black walnuts, removing the hulls is the next step. Inventive methods of removing hulls from black walnuts have ranged from spreading them out and driving over them with a car to hammering them through a hole in a board. However, you can also husk them by walking on them or by just tapping the nuts lightly

with a hammer. No matter which method you may chose, make sure to wear rubber gloves while hulling since the juice from the hulls will stain your hands.

Keep your rubber gloves on after you finish hulling, as you will also need them when washing excess juice and debris from the black walnuts. A neat trick to ensure quality nuts is to place the nuts in a bucket of water. Unfilled nuts will float in water, whereas nuts having a good kernel will sink.

After hulling and washing the nuts, you

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Jim Rouhan, continued from page 1
horticulturalist for Gurneys Seeds and Nursery. Latter, he took a job with a private company and moved to Pigeon Forge, working as a horticulturalist and landscape designer. In the year 2000, this job moved to Michigan. Face with a move, Jim took a job with the City of Sevierville and has been here ever since.

When asked what is the largest achievement his department has made since he has been here, Jim answered, "I don't think there has been any one thing, just because everything is interconnected. We have had the most positive feedback on all the flowers used for beautification, and since we grow most of the flowers ourselves in the city's greenhouses, it is a meaningful compliment. We also get a lot of compliments on all the walking trails, but this is a group effort shared by the landscapers, mowing

crews, Winter Fest lighting crew, and the maintenance people who keep it clean."



Jim Rouhan at the River Walk, one of his favorite hangouts.

He is also satisfied with the direction Sevierville is going in the use of plants and landscaping. "I think we are on track with where we are, and hopefully where we are going. We continually adjust what we do and how we do it to make the job smoother and

keep it interesting for both the public and us. We have adapted ourselves to be unique from other cities. Not a day goes by when we wonder what we need to be doing, since a lot of work is accomplished daily on a year-round basis."

It is Jim's degree of interest in plants that separates him from the rest of us. To him, "The possibilities are endless when it comes to Plant Science. Not only is there landscaping and horticulture, there is art, creativity, health, food production, environmental aspects, business, green technologies, land use, and so much more.

I learn something new every day and do a lot of experiments in an attempt to continually learn new things."

Jim's uniqueness is the combination of his knowledge with his friendliness. If you see him working with the city's landscaping

and approach him, you will find that he welcomes questions. He will gladly describe the plants he is working with, and what he is doing for them. If you catch up with him on the River Walk, he will show you the many species of trees and flowers that are growing there. For the rest of us, we will probably never achieve Jim's level of interest in plants. But is it is comforting to know that our home town has such an individual working for us and the flowers.

If you are ever in downtown Sevierville, or the Walking Trail, and you see Jim, just go over and say "hi." If you ask him what he is doing, he will tell you and explain why. If you have any questions about the flowers or plants he is working with, he will answer them. That is what makes Jim unique, the combination of a high degree of knowledge with a high degree of openness and friendliness.

2009 EAST TENNESSEE REGION MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

When: October 24, 2009 from 9 am to 4:15 pm

Exciting new programs (with many CEU opportunities!)
If you've signed up to help, you receive Volunteer Hours, too!

Programs include:

- ☛ eXtension.org is for Master Gardeners
- ☛ The Excitement of Butterfly Gardening
- ☛ Diseases Commonly Found in Home Gardens
- ☛ Let's Have Healthy Trees
- ☛ Identifying and Treating Garden Insect Pests
- ☛ It's Xeriscaping, not 'Zeroscaping'
- ☛ Cover Crops in the Organic Home Garden
- ☛ Distant Diagnostics

Other Activities:

- ☛ Making Herbal Soaps from your Garden, Garden Craft (2 presentations)
- ☛ Advance Training: CSI in the Plant World (2 presentations)
- ☛ Tours of the UT Gardens
- ☛ Plant Swap
- ☛ Silent Auction
- ☛ Gift Shop

Where: UT Agricultural Campus, Knoxville Plant Science Building

Registration for full conference STILL only \$25.

TNMG Advocates meeting from 4:30 – 6. All MG's are encouraged to attend!

If you haven't already, there's still time to register for the Eastern Region Master Gardener Conference Day on October 24. Deadline for registration has been extended to October 16. Remember - the first 150 MG's to register will receive a gardening gift value (\$15).

The Registration Form is available at our Website (www.scamga.org) or at the Extension office.

This event is a great opportunity to complete many of your 2010 CEU's and possible volunteer hours.

If you have questions, please "Reply" or call me at 932-9862, or contact Alan at wbruhin1@utk.edu or telephone him at 453-3695.

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:

October:

10th (Sat) 9:30am-4pm: Incredible Edibles and Traditional Medicines Meet at the barn at Oconaluftee Visitor Center, Cherokee, NC. 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. Register Course #09FA881-1 Fee \$49 (865) 974-0150 or www.outreach.utk.edu/smoky

10th (Sat) 8am-4pm: Fruit, Foliage and Fall Wildlife Meet on the porch at Smokies Park Headquarters bldg. On several short walks at various elevations and habitats, we will learn to identify the trees, shrubs, and vines in part by their unique colored leaves and fruit. Register course #09FA864 Fee \$49 (865) 974-0150 or www.outreach.utk.edu/smoky

24th (Sat) 9am-4pm: East Tennessee

Region Master Gardeners Conference
Registration Deadline October 16th! Topics include Butterfly Gardening, Home Garden Diseases, Healthy Trees, Identifying Insect Pests, Xeriscaping, Composting, Worm Composting, Herbal Scents, Advanced Training, Tours and more. Contact Alan Bruhin (453-3695), Leo Lubke (932-9862) or Glenna Julian (933-0747) for information. Fee: \$25.

31st (Sat) 1pm: Liv-

ing Clean & Green! Greenways Ijams Nature Center, Greenways are connecting our neighborhoods and communities. Knox County has more miles of paved greenways than any other urban area in the state. This workshop will introduce you to our greenway system, provide maps and allow you to experience the greenway that passes through Ijams Nature Center firsthand. This program is free! To register, call 577-4717 ext. 10.

SCAMGA EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

9/22 - 11/24: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:15pm - Help with the 2009 Master Gardener Class Feel free to drop in and visit with any of the classes you would like to. You can get a CEU and make up for any classes you might have missed when you took your class. **Volunteers still needed with refreshments on Oct. 29, Nov. 3, 5, 10 and 24 if you would like to help with those.** Contact Alan Bruhin at 453-6395 to sign up!

10/24/09: 4th Annual Eastern Region Master Gardeners Conference **Deadline for registration has been extended to October 16.** Remember - the first 150 MG's to register will receive a gardening gift value (\$15). The Registration Form is available at our Website (www.scamga.org) or at the Extension office. This event is a great opportunity to complete many of your 2010 CEU's and possible volunteer hours. If you have questions, please "Reply" or call me at 932-9862, or contact Alan at wbruhin1@utk.edu or telephone him at 453-3695.

12/5/09: Dogwood Arts Festival's

Bazillion Blooms At the UT Gardens. Bazillion Blooms is a dogwood tree planting program to restore dogwoods to their former vitality in Knox and surrounding counties. If you would like to help with the community Day of Planting please call the Dogwood Arts Festival Office at 865-637-4561.

Senior Center Garden & Greenhouse
1st Saturday & 3rd Wed of each month from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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 labelling. 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. Opportu-

nities 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, labour, 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. To register as a volunteer, call DLIA's Executive Director Todd Witcher at (865) 430-4757 or visit the website at www.dlia.org

Tennessee Master Gardener Awards 2009 Search for Excellence Awards

Apply NOW! Deadline October 31, 2009!

The application form can be found at:
http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_awards.asp

Search for Excellence is the recognition program for Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the state of Tennessee. SFE has seven categories:

- * Youth
- * Demonstration Garden
- * Workshop or Presentation
- * Community Service
- * Innovative
- * Research
- * Special Needs Audience (Senior, Disabled or Horticultural Therapy)

Projects must fit into one of these categories. Only one project may be submitted by a group per category.

All SFE applications must demonstrate that significant learning took place, whether by the Master Gardeners or the general public with which they were involved.

SFE is designed to recognize outstanding group projects, not an individuals.

Questions should be directed to Mike Payne tnmastergardener@aol.com or to Beth Babbit at ebabbit@utk.edu. No hard copy or mailed applications will be accepted.

Outstanding Volunteer Award

To nominate a volunteer in your county for outstanding volunteer award, submit a letter of recommendation to the TMG Advocacy Board prior to October 31st.

2010 Master Gardener Calendars are Here!

Still only \$10.00!

The 2010 Yards and Garden Guide and Calendars are here and ready - get one for yourself, give them as gifts to all your gardening friends and family, or help sell them! Only \$10! You can pick them up at the Extension Office, at our next MG meeting, or at the Eastern Region Conference!



Keynote Speaker: ACT Executive Director Alice Ewen Walker will discuss the legislative agenda that affects urban forestry, note the trends of tree organizations, and present a vision for the future.

Other Program Highlights: Managing Your Community's Urban Forest * Assessment Tools for Your Community * Sustainable Tree Growing * Design Low Impact Development Techniques * Plant from the Roots Up: The Importance of Soils * Invasives on the East: Multiple Approaches to Multiple Threats * Legislating the Urban Forest: Tree Ordinances and Other Planning and Protection Measures

Additional Features: Two Pre-Conference Tours: Old-Growth Forest Tour and Urban Forest Tour * Pre-Conference Arboriculture Workshop: Arboriculture Basics and Issues in Utility Arboriculture * Opening Reception and Dinner * Tree Board Breakfast * Industry Trade Show Saturday, October 24, Centennial Park 11th Annual Tree Climbing Championship * New Feature – Free Public Forum: Let's Talk Trees—Managing Nashville's Urban Forest

Master Gardeners & Student Registration Rate \$35.00 without meals, \$70.00 with meals. This discount rate does not include the workshop or tours.

Contact: Jennifer Smith, Ph. (615) 352-8985

Fax (615) 352-6762, tufc@comcast.net

www.GreeningYourCommunity.org



2010 Nashville Lawn & Garden Show Named
a Top 20 Event by South East Tourism Society
21st Anniversary Show Will Be Presented March 4 - 7, 2010

CONTACT: Sharon Eden 615-876-7680
Show Co-Manager

The 21st anniversary presentation of the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show, which will be held Thursday, March 4, through Sunday, March 7, 2010, has been named a Top 20 Event for winter 2010 by the South East Tourism Society of the USA. The Nashville Lawn and Garden Show, Tennessee's premier horticultural event, annually attracts more than 22,000 people and is one of the largest gardening shows in the South. Produced by the Horticultural Association of Tennessee, the annual event is staged at the Tennessee State Fairgrounds.

The deadline for exhibit booth reservations for the 2010 show is January 1, 2010. For more complete information, call the Nashville Lawn & Garden Show office at 615-876-7680 or visit www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com.

GROWING DEGREE DAY UPDATE:

Leo Lubke says: "To follow up on the Integrated Pest Management and Growing Degree as of September 29, I give this update to our accumulated GDD's. We've had a very warm September and we now have 3,924 Accumulated Growing Degree Days (AGDD). There are only 576 GDD's to go in this growing season! Where did the summer go! Today, with its cooler temperatures, we only accumulated 7.1 GDD's. As far as rainfall here in Kodak, in September we have had 4.4 inches. Our total rainfall, year-to-date, is 41.85 inches."

Please don't forget -- If you want to see a list of common garden and landscape pests and when they arrive and leave, you can now go to our Website (www.scamga.org) and either view it on the screen or make a paper copy.

The Weather Rock

October, 2009

Greetings from the Weather Rock!

Apples are keeping us busy these days and this article will have to be short and sweet (maybe not so sweet).

The 'powers that be' say we are going to get more heavy rain...shortly....when the system resets. (it rained 4 inches on us last Sat.)....so enjoy this beautiful weather while it lasts. They also say this will be the coldest Winter in 10 years....with snow. I say the coldest in 20 years.....because the solar minimum continues (at this time) to get worse. Worst in more than 100 years....with no let-up in site. In late summer we went almost sixty days without a single sunspot.... and since then, we've only had two....not good news.....unless you like cold weather! I hope that I can elaborate completely, in the Nov. issue. Just start to prepare for colder lows than we have seen in a long time.....pre 1990....maybe lower.

From 'submarine base' Mountain View Orchard (waiting for the next rain).....this is 'the Weather Rock'.

Thanks!

Jack Bailey

Walnuts, continued from page 1

spread them out in thin layers in a shady area to cure them. Make sure to choose a well-ventilated area away from direct sunlight. Leave to dry for two weeks.

When dried, put the nuts in wire or mesh containers and store them in a cool, humid area - perhaps a garage or basement - until you are ready to crack them. Curing the nuts in this manner improves

their flavor and lessens the bitterness or astringency of the meats.

Before cracking, place the nuts in hot water and let them stand for about 24 hours. Drain and cover with fresh hot water. After a minute, drain this water and let the surface of the nuts dry. This allows the nut meats to pick up enough moisture to reduce shattering.

A vise, hammer and anvil, rock or block of wood may

be used to crack the nuts. Hand-operated mechanical crackers offer the advantage of speed, easier cracking, along with less crushed nut meats and more kernel. A pick may also be used to get more kernel out of a nut.

Spread the removed kernels out and dry overnight. Kernels store well for several months in a closed, refrigerated container. For longer storage freeze in a heavy plastic bag or sealed container.

DONATIONS STILL NEEDED!

Hello All!

Our Master Gardeners Day is coming up fast and the Scholarship Committee needs help with donations for the Garden Cart that we will be selling tickets for. We also need garden related items for the silent auction. All the proceeds will go towards scholarships for deserving students who plan to go into horticulture or related fields. Please look around and see what you can donate. Ask your friends and neighbors as well as your favorite gardening store! We need as many items as possible in order to make this a success. Thanks for all you do!

The Scholarship Committee

Master Gardeners Dress Up Sevier County for Fall

Our Master Gardener group puts up various fall displays in our community, including the Fair entrance, the Courthouse (shown right) and Rotary Craft Tent at Patriot Park in Pigeon Forge. We get a lot of visibility and many enjoy what we do with corn stalks, gourds, lantanas and pumpkins. For many, it is a true sign that fall is here. Thanks to all who helped make these beautiful displays!



Sevier County Master Gardeners decorating the entrance to the Courthouse with the display moved from the Fairgrounds. Photo by Joan Folsane.

Watch out for upcoming community service opportunities like this one!

MASTER GARDENER DAY PLANT SWAP: OCTOBER 24

Help make this a great event by bringing something to swap. Remember you can bring plants, seeds, and garden related items. Honor the guidelines and have fun!

Thanks,

Donna Little, Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association, Plant Swap Coordinator