What is Search for Excellence?

Recognition for Extension Master Gardener projects throughout Tennessee that demonstrate:

- overall excellence
- high levels of learning
- community outreach

Seven categories:

- Youth
- Demonstration Garden
- Workshop or Presentation
- Community Service
- Innovative Research
- Special Needs
RESEARCH
SEQUATCHIE VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS
Evaluating the Taste of Tomatoes Grown In and Around the Sequatchie Valley
Tomato Tasting ...
Sequatchie Valley
Tennessee
MASTER GARDENER
HELPING TENNESSEE GROW BETTER COMMUNITIES
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

SFE Application
Instructions for Applicants
Instructions for Judges
Scoresheet
How to Write an Impact Statement

Dates to remember

Current application is usually available in mid-September
Deadline to submit application is October 31
WORKSHOP
SEQUATCHIE VALLEY
MASTER GARDENERS
Shiitake Mushroom Workshop
Shiitake Mushroom Workshop
The first year
HOW DOES JUDGING WORK?

Judges are volunteers.

There are a minimum of seven (7) judges; this year we had nine (9).

Judges are given a number and only one person knows who is who.

Each judge reads and scores all of the applications.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simplicity of the project and ease of replication</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practicality, usefulness or relevance of the project</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Originality or creativity</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consistent with Extension and EMG Mission</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarity and completeness of project application</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of learning</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people impacted</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 100 POINTS
All scoresheets are returned to the SFE chair.

Scoresheets are checked for math and then tallied.

Various bias tests are run.

Projects must achieve an average score of at least 80 points to be considered for an award.

The project with the highest score in its category wins.
A HEART-FELT THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR JUDGES

Janice Church – Blount County
Jayla Fry – Texas Master Gardeners Association Program Director
Marsha Lehman – Knox County
Carol Mathews – Hamilton County
Nancy Murray – Madison County
John Overby – Madison County
Nancy Rich – Cumberland County
Tom Rieman – Shelby County (Memphis Area Master Gardeners)
COMMUNITY SERVICE
DYER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Shady Acres Arboretum
Shady Acres Arboretum
Trenton, Tennessee
32 acres

Located in the heart of Gibson County in the City Trenton, Tennessee...
a Level IV Arboretum
198 species
Beginning with an assessment
First winter planting
How big is it going to be???
Shady Acres City Park

Repaint Done!
One of four in the state of Tn
Variegated Chinese Red Pine
Chinese Red Pine
NEW GROWTH
Welcome To
SHADY ACRES PARK
City of Trenton, TN
Home of the
World’s Largest Collection
of Teapots

Welcome To
SHADY ACRES PARK
City of Trenton, TN
Home of the
World’s Largest Collection
of Teapots
Many old trees
Variety of species
Special tree
for a special couple
Dawn Redwood
*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
old meets new
Off to a good start
Conifer section
year 1
Special planting for a graduation class
“I’ll be BIG soon!”
Chinese Yellowwood
*Cladrastis sinensis*
Common bald cypress

*Taxodium distichum*
Even the birds appreciate our efforts.
FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Cornus florida

In Memory of

Robert & Mary Morse, of Humboldt, TN

by their children: Lisa, Lyle & Lynda

A special dedication
Consulting with an urban forestry representative
SILKEY DOGWOOD

Cornus amomum

In Honor of Robert & Berlyne Holman
Weeding – never ending job
2013
every 6 days - a 6 hour task
The Flower Maple
Acer triflorum

Water Oak
*Quercus nigra*
Conifers
year 2 plantings
Longleaf Pine

Pinus palustris
Chastetree
Vitex aqunus-castus
Chastetree
Vitex aqunus-castus
Honoring loved ones

Arnold tulip
Liriodendron tulipifera
SASAQUA Camellia
Camellia sasanqua

In Loving Memory of
Mary Jayne & Robert S. Quier

RED MAPLE
Acer Rubrum

In Honor of Virginia Hickerson
Fame willow

Salix x flame
Golden raintree
Koelreuteria paniculata
Pacific fire maple
Acer circinatum
‘Pacific Fire’
Smoke tree
Cotinus coggygria
This bed designed and maintained by Tennessee Master Gardener's of Dyer County

Planting our new sign
Day 1
INSPECTION for Level IV status
Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
The Tennessee Urban Forestry Council has confirmed this site as a Certified Arboretum.
How did you target your audience?
How did you make them aware of the project?
How many people were served?
Was there significant learning?
Was there a change in attitude and/or practices?

HOW DO YOU KNOW?
INNOVATIVE

BRADLEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Bradley County Juvenile Court/Junior Master Gardener’s Project
Growing a Harvest for the Future
Juvenile Court Youth Garden
Made possible by
George R. Johnson
Family Foundation
Dedicated May 29, 2009
In 500 Words or Less:
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT
(Include name, location, target audience, goals, and partnerships)

In 500 Words or Less:
DESCRIBE THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

In 500 Words or Less:
HOW HAS THE PROJECT BEEN FUNDED AND HOW HAVE THOSE FUNDS BEEN SPENT?

In 500 Words or Less:
DESCRIBE THE OUTCOMES OF THIS PROJECT. HOW HAS IT AUGMENTED LEARNING, INCREASED KNOWLEDGE OR CHANGED PRACTICES TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE? INCLUDE METHODS YOU USED TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT. (These impacts could be economical, educational, environmental, health, or community based.)
Write Concisely and Clearly!

**CONCISENESS:** using the fewest words possible to clearly convey an idea. The opposite of conciseness is WORDINESS.

**Trim the Fat!**
(Those unnecessary words and phrases that weigh down the explanation.)

“After this explanation, participants were then allowed to create their own fabulous cut flower arrangements using blossoms of their favorite colors, buds from various plants, greenery, and their choice of clear or colored vases.” versus “Participants then created their own flower arrangements.”

**Stay On Point!**
(Do not stray from the response with irrelevant tangents. Keep to the main idea.)

“When first planning the tree planting, we eliminated several sites. One was near the theater, which had recently been repainted a very attractive dark brown with beige accents. Most productions are attended evenings, and because it is usually dark outside when folks would be coming and leaving, the tree would not show against the dark siding in the background.”
DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
MASTER GARDENERS OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Demonstration Gardens of Rutherford County/Flutter By Park
RC Master Gardener’s Demonstration Gardens
Butterfly Garden, Nov. 2010
Raised Bed Gardens
July 2012
Sept. 2014
Rain Garden 2014
Orchard
Sept. 2014
CONGRATULATIONS!

SFE Committee

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