Small Fruits Workshop

A successful Small Fruits Workshop!

- The program was held March 28, with 75 people (best count we could get) attending
- Reviews were good
  - 43 of 46 rated the usefulness as high or very high
  - 38 of 46 rated their gain in knowledge as high or very high
  - 42 of 46 rated the presentation quality as high or very high
- On each topic:
  - Soils and Soil Testing 29/46 indicated an increase in knowledge on the topic
  - Brambles 38/46 indicated an increase in knowledge on the topic
  - Blueberries 34/46 indicated an increase in knowledge on the topic
  - Strawberries 39/46 indicated an increase in knowledge on the topic

See the photos on the last page. Thanks Trish for taking and sharing photos

New Publications
PB 1745 Beekeeping in Tennessee
The revision of this publication is now available on the Extension publications site at
Hard copies can be purchased through the Ag Store at
2017 Dates

- **Spring Tour** April 22, 2017, Huntsville Botanical Gardens details below
- **Quarterly Meeting** April 29, 2017, Dunlap, TN Mountain Valley Bank
- **Valley Fest** May 5-7, 2017, Dunlap TN
- **Eastern Region TEMG workshop** June 8, 2017, Crossville
- **Central Region TEMG workshop** June 22, 2017, Murfreesboro
- **Steak and Potato Day** August 1, 2017, Crossville
- **Quarterly Meeting** August 12, 2017 (Week later due to 127 Yard Sale) Tomato Tasting in Dunlap
- **Western Region TEMG workshop** October 12, 2017, Memphis
- **Quarterly Meeting** November 4, 2017, Pikeville

The Sequatchie Valley Master Gardener SPRING FIELD TRIP

*Mark your calendar!*
From Lorna Earnest–SVMG Vice President

We will visit the wonderful Huntsville Botanical Garden (Huntsville, AL) on Saturday, April 22nd. We have invited interested members of our 'sister' FCE (Family & Community Education) group to accompany us. (NOTE: in the event of inclement weather, the tour will be rescheduled for the following Saturday, April 29th).

We will meet at the Gardens at 1:00 p.m. (CDST). The Gardens are located at 4747 Bob Wallace Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35805, and their phone number is (256) 830-4447. A Huntsville Master Gardener will provide our group an orientation when we arrive, and show us through the Master Gardener display section of the Gardens. After that, there will be time to explore other areas of the Garden in small groups or individually. There will be one or two golf carts available for anyone having difficulty walking long distances.

Admission to the Gardens is $9.00 per person (group rate). We need to have our FINAL head count by the end of the day on Friday, April 14th. If you plan to attend, please place your cash or check (made out to SVMG) in a sealed envelope addressed to Doug Stafford, c/o UT Extension Office and bring or mail it to the UT Extension office in Dunlap to arrive by that date. The UT Extension Office address is: 170 Church St, Dunlap, TN 37327. Anyone that doesn't pay their admission by April 14th, can pay at the entrance to the Gardens at a cost of $11. If you are a member of a public garden affiliated with the American Horticultural Society (such as Reflection Riding or Cheekwood), your admission is free as long as you bring along your AHS membership card.

There will be a no-host lunch at the Cracker Barrel in Huntsville before the Garden tour. The Cracker Barrel is located at 2001 Drake Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35801. I'll be there at 11:30 a.m. and will reserve a table of suitable size for whoever plans to eat there. The drive from the Cracker Barrel to the Gardens is about 10 minutes.

The drive from Dunlap to Huntsville is approximately two hours. Feel free to arrange car-pooling with others going.

Please include the following information along with your payment:

- **Your name and phone number (in case we need to reschedule the tour due to inclement weather).**
- **Number of persons in your party.**
- **Do you need a golf cart?**
- **Are you a member of AHS-affiliated garden?**
- **Will you and/or your party have lunch at the Cracker Barrel?**

Any question, feel free to email Lorna. I look forward to seeing this great garden with you! - Lorna
**GARDENING TIPS**  
“Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration.” Lou Erickson

**May Garden tips**

May is an important month to get your summer garden established. It is an ideal month to plant everything you want in your garden before hot temperatures set in. Following are some suggestions for your May garden.

- Keep an eye on watering everything which is newly planted. It doesn’t take much for new little transplants to dry out and die before they have a chance to get established. Check every day for adequate moisture until plants take-off and start to grow.
- Be sure to mow your lawn at the correct height. For turf-type fescues and bluegrass, have your mowing height to 2 ½ “. The higher you cut your lawn the deeper the roots will grow helping it survive dry spells. Do not lime or fertilize your fescue or bluegrass lawns until late summer.
- Deadhead or prune back spent flowers on your perennials. This will manicure your garden and can stimulate reblooming of delphinium and columbine as well as other perennials.
- You can selectively prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azalea, forsythia, weigela, lilac, beauty bush, and mockorange to control their growth or improve their shape as well as increase their bloom next year.
- May is strawberry-picking month. Stock up on ice cream and whipped cream.
- Fertilize strawberry plants after their fruit has been harvested with 2 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 sq. ft.
- Spray fruit trees and grapes early in the month with preventative fungicides. Do not use insecticides until all blooms have disappeared so not to harm the natural bee population.
- May is the month for iris and peonies. Enjoy their cutflowers in vases in your home.
- Thin (pick off) excess fruits from apple, pear and peach trees to a ratio of one fruit per 6-8 inches of branch.
- Stake tall growing perennials such as foxglove and true lilies to prevent them from lodging.
- If your peonies fail to flower this month, it could be that they are planted too deep. They should be planted 2" deep and receive at least 6 hours of sunlight.
- Direct seed sunflowers in your garden and stagger their planting by every week or two through July so you have flowers until frost.
- As the days get hotter and your pansies show stress, remove them and replace with summer annuals.
- When planting summer annuals, consider pinching and removing the flowers to stimulate branching and the production of many more flowers.
- Be sure to train new vines onto trellis or posts with the aid of twine. Plastic twine should be used to support the weight of the vine throughout the growing season.
- Don’t forget to apply pre-emergent herbicides such as Preen to newly planted flower and vegetable gardens to prevent weeds. Be sure to follow label directions.
- Stalks of bearded, Siberian, and Japanese iris should be removed as flower fade.
- If you have had a grub problem or other insects in your lawn, now is an ideal time to apply either a grub-controlling insecticide or one labeled for the insects you want to control.
Blue false indigo gets this name from early settlers who used this plant as a substitute for true indigo, which is of the genus Indigofera, for making blue dyes. Photo of specimen in the UT Gardens, Jackson, by C. Reese, courtesy UTIA.
Small Fruits workshop photos