

14th Annual Garden Gala Returns to Jonesborough

Historic Jonesborough, Tennessee will be bursting with colors, lush foliage, and inspirational seminars during the 14th annual Garden Gala on Saturday, May 29, 2010. The theme chosen for this year is "Victory Gardens Revisited". This celebrates the patriotism shown by nearly 20 million Americans that answered the call during World War II to plant gardens. Also, local artists will also be in many of the gardens for the guests to enjoy the artistic diversity of our community.

Tickets for the afternoon tour and tea are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the tour. A ticket for all three morning seminars is \$5. Group rates are available. Tickets are available at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center, 117 Boone Street or can be purchased with Visa or Master Card by calling 423.753.1010 or toll free 866.401.4223.

The Garden Marketplace will be in a new location this year on the west side of the court house in historic downtown. The Jonesborough Farmers Market will be on the east side. The Jonesborough Farmer's Market will open at 8 am and the Garden Marketplace will open at 9 am with an all - day plant and garden accessory sale, which will be open to the public. Morning activities include three seminars beginning at 9:15 in the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center. At 12:30 pm private gardens will open to the public until 5 pm. Tea will be served from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm on the breathtaking grounds of February Hill Bed and Breakfast.

Between seminars and the afternoon garden tours, enjoy a delicious lunch at a Jonesborough restaurant. The self - guided walking tours will be an opportunity to view more than 13 private gardens and 4 community gardens, varying in styles that include an English garden, organic gardens, special heritage garden, and porch container gardens. Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners and Southern Appalachian Plant Society members will be at each garden to answer visitors' gardening questions. Trolley service will be provided for those with special needs.

Start your Saturday morning by attending the seminars hosted by the Tuesday Garden Club of Jonesborough. At 9:15 Christy Shivell, gardener and owner of Shy Valley Farms (www.shyvalley.com), will have a seminar on "Edible Flowers". Shivell will talk about common herbs, garden plants, and wild plants that have edible flowers, and how to use them.

At 10:15 am Elizabeth Elizonda from the UT Agricultural Extension Office will be showing "Three Ways to Preserve Food".

"Rainwater: Harvesting and Management" will be presented by James Phillips from Burlenbone Resources. Phillips is an outdoor education teacher at Davy Crockett High School. Let James help you choose wisely, and place properly.

This daylong event is hosted and supported through volunteers from the Tuesday Garden Club, the Schubert Club, Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners and the Southern Appalachian Plant Society.

For more information, please contact Marilyn Buchanan – 423.753.5160 or Nansee Williams – 423.753.8005 or for tickets contact the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center 423.753.1010.