

2012 North Carolina Master Gardener Conference Tours
Last updated January 13, 2012

Haywood County Tour
Monday, May 21, 2012
<p>Located 25 miles west of Asheville on the border with Tennessee, Haywood County encompasses a large section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Pisgah National Forest, in addition to the towns of Waynesville, Maggie Valley, Canton, Clyde, and Hazelwood. Master Gardeners from across the state are invited to join a tour to Haywood County which will highlight two of the county's hidden jewels in addition to two of the Haywood County Master Gardeners' most successful projects</p> <p>Located in the Lake Junaluska community, the Corneille Bryant Native Garden will be the first stop, where the group will enjoy a guided tour of the native wildflowers, many of which will be in bloom in late May. The National Park's Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center will host the Master Gardeners for box lunches and a short program in its beautiful facility, formerly a private home, located at a 5000-foot elevation near Purchase Knob. This accessible edge of the National Park will offer classic views of the Smokies. Before and after lunch volunteers will welcome participants to the school gardens at Hazelwood and Junaluska Elementary Schools.</p>

Polk County Tour
Monday, May 21, 2012
<p>Polk County is pleased to offer docent-guided tours of historic Pearson's Falls. This botanical preserve is comprised of 268 acres of native forest, granite, spring-fed streams, and a moderate, quarter-mile trail to a 90-foot waterfall. There are over 200 species of rare wildflowers and plants, mosses, lichens, and trees in this glen, many of which you will see from the trail. And, of course, you will be rewarded with a beautiful waterfall, which will be at its peak in the spring.</p> <p>Pearson's Falls is also a wildlife preserve, an outdoor laboratory for the botany departments of the surrounding colleges and universities, and the site of frequent field trips for local science classes. It is designated as a North Carolina National Heritage Site of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area, a North Carolina Birding Trail Site, and is placed in the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Gardens.</p> <p>Wear sturdy shoes, bring a camera, and enjoy the unique habitat. Lunch is included in the cost of the tour.</p>

Henderson County Tour
Monday, May 21, 2012
<p>The Henderson County Tour will include visits to several of the gardens maintained by the Henderson County Master Gardeners, as well as Hendersonville's historic Main Street. You will have a chance to ask questions and meet many of our Master Gardeners as you visit the area.</p> <p>You will visit the gardens of the Flat Rock Playhouse. Designated The State Theater of North Carolina in 1961, the Playhouse is celebrating its 60th anniversary at the present location. Over the past four years, a group of Master Gardeners has worked to renovate and maintain the gardens around the theater. You will enjoy refreshments and listen to a brief talk on the history of the theater and the gardens. The group will then break into smaller groups for a guided tour of the various garden areas.</p>

2012 North Carolina Master Gardener Conference Tours
Last updated January 13, 2012

Now in its fourth year, the Bountiful Harvest Community Garden in Jackson Park was started by a group of Master Gardeners to offer residents of all income levels the opportunity to grow their own organic produce. In addition to 26 individual rented plots, the Master Gardeners maintain 2 large plots which are used to demonstrate organic techniques. The vegetables grown in these two plots are donated to Main Stay, a local women's shelter.

While in Jackson Park, you will drive by the recently renovated low-maintenance gardens surrounding the Henderson County Extension Office – designed and maintained by Master Gardeners.

You will also visit the Bullington Center. This horticultural learning center, with its nationally recognized horticultural therapy garden and programs, is located on twelve acres of rolling land – formerly the nursery of Mr. Bob Bullington. In addition to the Therapy Garden, highlights include – but are not limited to – Pollinator, Perennial, Shade, and Herb gardens. The native woodland garden provides a beautiful shady stroll on warm days. Following a brief introduction to the gardens and programs, you will be free to walk around at your leisure. Volunteers will be on hand in the various gardens to answer questions, and refreshments will be served. Plants will be for sale in the hoop houses.

Lunch will be on your own in downtown Hendersonville, followed by time to explore the quaint Main Street and check out some of the local shops. Henderson County Master Gardeners will be on hand to suggest places, and join you, for lunch.

Biltmore Gardens Tour

Monday, May 21, 2012

Asheville Botanical Gardens Tour

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

North Carolina Arboretum for Art in the Garden Tour

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

The North Carolina Arboretum awaits you....

The first stop of your Arboretum visit is the Connections Gallery which offers a vibrant selection of fine art and crafts created by local and regional artists. The gallery features paintings, pottery, jewelry, glass, copper and forged pieces, fiber art, handmade brooms, and many other craft items from the area, as well as pieces related to seasonal exhibits.

Following your stop at the gift shop, experience a guided tour of the permanent outdoor art collection at The North Carolina Arboretum. Art at the North Carolina Arboretum honors and preserves the unique cultural and natural heritage of the region. The collection and exhibits, inspired by the land, the people, and the creative process, bring art and craft into public spaces,

2012 North Carolina Master Gardener Conference Tours
Last updated January 13, 2012

enriching and stimulating thought and imagination. The tour includes over 15 art pieces and encompasses many of the Arboretum's cultivated garden areas. The tour lasts about 1½ hours and will be leisurely paced to allow for discussion and interaction. Wear comfortable walking shoes.