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## **Memphis Area Master Gardeners Kick-Off the 2015 Gardening Season with Annual Event**

MEMPHIS, TN – It is almost time for the annual Spring Fling Garden Show and Plant Sale sponsored by the Memphis Area Master Gardeners. Now in its eleventh year, the theme of this year’s Spring Fling is “Growin’ Down the Garden Path.” The two-day event will take place on March 20th & 21st from 9 am to 5 pm at the Farmers Market Big Red Barn on the grounds of the Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Road in Memphis. All events are free and open to the public. Parking is also free.

Spring Fling offers presentations from national, regional and local experts; hands-on instruction; healthy cooking demonstrations; educational seminars; gardening information; a Master Gardeners plant sale; a gardening photo exhibit; recycling information; a seed starter booth; and lots of fun children’s activities in our Kid’s Corner. In addition, more than 50 vendors from six states provide unique plants, crafts, accessories and garden-related items in a rare “one stop shop” gardening marketplace. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their gardening dilemmas to the free “Ask a Master Gardener” Clinic for recommended solutions. This year, “Garden Jumble” –a mini flea-market of gently used garden tools, implements and art donated by the Master Gardeners themselves – has been added. Get there early to Saturday’s Seed Saver’s Workshop presented by the nationally acclaimed Seed Savers Exchange—seating is limited. Several food trucks will serve numerous casual dining options so plan for a refreshing spring picnic with the whole family!

Dr. Chris Cooper, UT Extension Agent for Shelby County, notes that the Memphis Area Master Gardeners Spring Fling Garden Show and Plant Sale “is unique. It is the only free garden event in the county devoted entirely to horticulture education and gardening. Many well-known local nurserymen as well as state extension employees support Spring Fling with their contributions and time.”

For more information on this event, as well as a schedule of speakers and demonstrations, visit the website <http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/sfling.htm>, or our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MAMGSpringFling2015/>. You can also contact the Shelby County UT Extension Office at (901) 752-1207.

**Memphis Area Master Gardeners (MAMG):** The Master Gardener Program is offered by the University of Tennessee Extension Service. Volunteers undergo extensive training and become certified as Master Gardeners. MAMG projects include a wide range of horticultural activities which promote research-based education within the Shelby County community under the supervision of the University of Tennessee Shelby County Extension Service.  
<http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/>



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