

# 2019 Eastern Region Tennessee Master Gardener Conference



May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

Hosted by the Blount  
County Master  
Gardeners Association



BLOUNT COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS

Get acquainted with the conference location and ‘Getaway Tour’ options for the afternoon of the 21st!

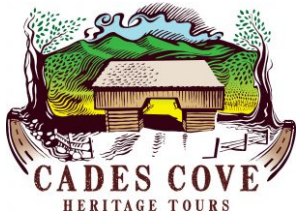


**The Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center**, GSMHC, is a jewel tucked away in the mountains of East Tennessee. It is located in the historic and scenic community of Townsend which is a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The Center is first and foremost a museum; a museum whose mission is to preserve, protect and promote the unique history and rich culture of the people who inhabited the Great Smoky Mountains and the surrounding area. While here you can travel back in time to learn about Cherokee culture and the migration of European settlers.

While visiting the Heritage Center, you’ll have the opportunity to view the Main Gallery, home to our Native Americans of East TN Collection and the East TN Mountain Culture exhibits. Also housed in the main building is the National Parks Gallery – A tribute to the five National Parks of East TN. Directly behind the main building is our Historic Village; a collection of historic buildings and barns brought to us from around the region. The Transportation Station houses an impressive display of modes of transportation ranging from mules to wagons to Model T’s and more. The entire main building and the outdoor amphitheater are accessible by wheelchair, and the gravel pathways in the Historic Village have been specifically designed for ADA compliance.

Additional information may be found at the following web link:

<http://www.gsmheritagecenter.org/>



**Cades Cove** is a broad, verdant valley surrounded by mountains and is one of the most popular destinations in the Great Smokies. It offers some of the best opportunities for wildlife viewing in the park. Large numbers of white-tailed deer are frequently seen, and sightings of black bear, coyote, ground hog, turkey, raccoon, skunk, and other animals are also possible. For hundreds of years Cherokee Indians hunted in Cades Cove but archeologists have found no evidence of major settlements. The first Europeans settled in the cove sometime between 1818 and 1821. By 1830 the population of the area had already swelled to 271.

Cades Cove offers the widest variety of historic buildings of any area in the national park. While touring along the 11-mile loop road by chartered van you will have the opportunity to view/visit three churches, a working grist mill, barns, log houses, and many other faithfully restored eighteenth and nineteenth century structures. So, whether you're a regular to Cades Cove or a 'first-timer' this guided tour will provide you the opportunity to experience the ecology and history of Cades Cove as never before.

Additional information may be found at the following web link:

<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/planyourvisit/cadescove.htm>

**Blackberry Farm** - As the sun rises over the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, the morning mist fades to unveil one of America's greatest hidden treasures, Blackberry Farm. Its 4,200 acres have been a mountain haven and tranquil escape for family, friends and guests for more than 70 years as it evolved into a luxurious resort of breathtaking scenery, gourmet cuisine and pleasurable pastimes.

In the 1930's, Florida and Dave Lasier were enthralled by the majesty of these mountains and, on a trip from Chicago to the Georgia coast, discovered the perfect setting for their dream home. In 1930, while selecting just the right location, Florida snagged her silk stockings in a thicket of blackberry bushes, and the name Blackberry Farm was born.

A tour of the gardens, that are meticulously maintained, will be hosted by the expert gardeners on staff at Blackberry. Attendees will observe the gardening practices that promote sustainability of the soil and while producing wholesome fruits and vegetables for consumption at the farm and nearby farmers' markets. Located in a pastoral setting in the foothills of the Smokies the gardens will transport visitors to a simpler time and place of refreshing as they experience the fragrance of soil, plant and mountain air blended together for a memorable experience.

Additional information may be found at the following web links:

<http://www.blackberryfarm.com/farm/produce-gardens/>  
<http://www.blackberryfarm.com/farm/artisans/gardeners>

**NOTE:** Tours will include light to moderate walking and closed-toe shoes are recommended.

# Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Eastern Region Conference- 2019

Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center (GSMHC), Townsend, TN - May 21<sup>st</sup>  
(Pre-Conference Walking tour/Dinner on the 20<sup>th</sup>)

Hosted by Blount County Master Gardeners Association

Monday, May 20- Townsend	
5 pm	Wildflowers at Townsend Riverwalk (meet at Townsend Gateway Inn)
6-8 pm	Dinner and music at Townsend Gateway Inn Pavilion
Tuesday, May 21- GSMHC	
9-10 am	Opening keynote- Kim DeLozier
10-11 am	Session 1- wildflowers, bears, invasives, wildfires in the Smokies
11 am-12 pm	Session 2- wildflowers, Am. Chestnut, streams/habitat, firewise landscaping
12-1 pm	Lunch at GSMHC
1-4 pm (3) or 1-5 pm (1)	Tours- Cades Cove (1), GSMHC video/tour (3)



## Registration Details

Registration includes sessions, snacks, lunch or dinner and tour transportation- filled first-come first-served basis.

Registration deadline: **April 19th, 2019** Fees: \$25 for tour, dinner and evening events on May 20<sup>th</sup>, \$40 for single day 21<sup>st</sup> conference (tour 2 or 3), and \$50 for single day 21<sup>st</sup> conference (tour 1)

Late registration: **After April 19th, 2019** Fees rise to \$30 for tour, dinner and evening events on May 20<sup>th</sup>, \$45 for single day 21<sup>st</sup> conference (tour 2 or 3), and \$55 for single day 21<sup>st</sup> conference (tour 1)

**1. By mail:** Send registration form (next page) and checks payable to *University of Tennessee* to:  
TEMG Conference Registration Attn: Sandy Kitts  
2431 Joe Johnson Drive, 252 Ellington Plant Science Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

**2. Online:** This link will take you to a UT e-marketplace site. At the bottom of the page, click Add to Cart. Then you will be able to enter contact and payment as well as select tours, sessions.

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1046&SINGLESTORE](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1046&SINGLESTORE)

## Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center

Address: 123 Cromwell Dr.  
Townsend, TN 37882

## Hotel Options- Use Code **ERMG** by 4/19

**1) Townsend Gateway Inn- (865) 238-0123**  
8270 State Highway 73, Townsend, TN 37882  
<https://www.townsendgatewayinn.com/>

## **2) Tallyho Inn- 1-800-448-2465**

8314 State Highway 73, Townsend, TN 37882  
<http://talleyhoinn.com/>

## Camping Options/Area Information

- 1)<https://koa.com/campgrounds/townsend-great-smokies/>
- 2) <https://www.camplittlearrow.com/>
- 3)[http://www.blountweb.com/townsend/townsend\\_visitors\\_center/visitors\\_center.htm](http://www.blountweb.com/townsend/townsend_visitors_center/visitors_center.htm)
- 4)[https://www.nps.gov/grsm/playourvisit/visitors\\_center.htm](https://www.nps.gov/grsm/playourvisit/visitors_center.htm)

**Please complete and mail the registration form for arrival by April 19th, 2019.**

Mail registration forms and checks to *University of Tennessee*:

Attn: Sandy Kitts, TEMG Conference Registration,  
2431 Joe Johnson Drive, 252 Ellington PSB, Knoxville, TN 37996-4561

**Participant information:**

Name	
Email (for all updates and reminders)	
Phone	
County	
Address, City, Zip	

**Registration options: (Tours and sessions will be filled first-come, first-served)**

Early Registration (before April 19 <sup>th</sup> )	Select	Late Registration (after April 19 <sup>th</sup> )	Select
Monday evening walking tour/dinner \$25 (20 <sup>th</sup> )		Monday evening walking tour/dinner \$30 (20 <sup>th</sup> )	
Tuesday main event fee \$40 (tour 2 or 3)		Tuesday main event fee \$45 (tour 2 or 3)	
Tuesday main event fee \$50 (tour 1)		Tuesday main event fee \$55 (tour 1)	
Registration total (sum of above columns)		Registration total (sum of above columns)	

\* Refund policy- If you have already registered and find you are unable to attend, you may request a 50% refund during the early registration period. Refunds will not be given after the late registration date.

**Conference participation information: (Please circle ONE choice for each time slot)**

<b>May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	5-8pm Townsend Riverwalk wildflower walk and dinner at Townsend Gateway Inn pavilion			
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday Main Conference – On Site Sessions</b>			
Session 1 (10-10:50 am)	Wildflowers of Tennessee- Randy Hedgepath- TN Naturalist	Invasive plants in the GSMNP- Christine Johnson	Blackbear populations and research in TN- Dr. Joe Clark	Firewise landscaping- Mr. Leon Konz
Session 2 (11-11:50 am)	Wildflowers of Tennessee- Randy Hedgepath- TN Naturalist	American Chestnut ecology/research- John Johnson	Stream ecology and wildlife in the region- Dr. Brian Alford	Firewise landscaping- Mr. Leon Konz
<b>May 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Tuesday Main Conference- Off-Site Afternoon Tours</b>			
First tour choice	Tour 1- Cades Cove guided tour by bus from GSMHC (1-5 pm) limit 60	Tour 2 FULL	Tour 3- GSM video presentation and GSMHC tour (1-3 pm)	No Tour
Second tour choice	Tour 1- Cades Cove guided tour by bus from GSMHC (1-5 pm) limit 60	Tour 2 FULL	Tour 3- GSM video presentation and GSMHC tour (1-3 pm)	

Do you have any food allergies that will impact lunch menus or physical limitations that will affect tour participation? If so, let us know here how we can assist.