



## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Garden Show and Sale

Springtime is almost here and I can't wait! It is almost time for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fling Garden Show and Sale sponsored by the Memphis Area Master Gardeners. This event will take place on Friday and Saturday, April 1st & 2nd, from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. This year's theme for Spring Fling is "Home Sown Garden Ideas Worth Sharing". This is a free event located at the Farmers Market Red Barn on the grounds of the Agricenter. It has been a cold and snowy winter here in Memphis but when I drive around Shelby County, I see signs of spring everywhere. Daffodils and tulips are popping up, forsythia bushes and cherry trees are in full bloom. Winter weeds like henbit and purple deadnettle are thriving in the landscape. This is the time of year that gardeners love!

The Memphis Area Master Gardeners Annual Spring Fling is unique. It is the only free garden event in the country devoted entirely to horticulture education and gardening. This two-day event is held in late March or early April at the Agricenter. Many well-known local nurserymen as well as state extension employees support Spring Fling with their contributions and time. Despite the cold and rainy weather last year, about 2500 people attended this two-day event.

The 2011 Spring Fling Garden Show and Sale has an impressive lineup of great speakers for you to enjoy, including University of Tennessee's own Carol Reese, Jason Reeves and Beth Babbitt. Felder Rushing, a horticulturist and host of the weekly "The Gestalt Gardener" on Mississippi Public Radio will also be there along with several local speakers. Demonstrations will be set up throughout the event. There will be demonstrations on flower pounding, leaf casting, hypertufa, lasagna gardening and a tutorial on how to grow worms. We will have activities for the entire family. Children will enjoy participating in kid's crafts and a Junior Daffodil Show.

Over 45 vendors will be present and several educational exhibits will be on display for your edification and entertainment. To top it off, our "Ask a Master Gardener" information booth will be available to answer your gardening questions.

More information about this year's Spring Fling can be found on our website, [www.memphisareamastergardeners.org](http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org) or you can give us a call at 752-1207. I hope to see you there! Until next time, happy gardening!



*Christopher Compton*