

October 1, 2023

Drummonds, TN

On the morning of September 28 a group of 28 volunteers provided a tour and educational program for over fifty children and adults as Tipton County Master Gardeners led members of the Tipton County Homeschool Social

Group through the Drummonds Park Arboretum in Drummonds, Tennessee. One half the crowd took a guided trek through the forest while the other half circulated among four “Learning Centers” stationed along a paved 1/3 mile walkway. Each center was manned by volunteers knowledgeable about the 3 to 5 labelled trees at that location, who led children in a variety of tree-related activities. After an hour or so the two halves of the group swapped places. Overall the participants had the opportunity to learn about the appearance, growth habits, fruit/seeds, bark, leaves, and benefits of over 36 species of trees, in addition to a variety of other plants, birds, animals and insects. The families appeared to enjoy it almost as much as the volunteers did!

Neil Bell

Chairman; Drummonds Park Arboretum Committee

Tipton County Master Gardeners

At Right: one of 8 small groups stops at the “Blue” learning center on the paved ADA trail.

Below: students and parents begin a forest trail hike at Drummonds Park Arboretum with guides Keith Kunkel, Candace Herron, Deborah King, and Dallas Holland.

Volunteer Jim H. hands tulip poplar leaves to students at the “Blue” learning station. They will make leaf rubbings with crayon and paper.



2nd small group learns about tulip poplar bark from Master Gardeners Carolyn M. and Vickie W. Some will make bark rubbings here or at the Lacebark Elm nearby.



Homeschool Group Forest Hike



Master Gardeners Fred B. and Doris A. show smooth leaves of a small Kousa holly at Orange station: contrasting with the roughleaf dogwood at previous Red station.



Trees as ART! Bonsai, paintings, and deciduous holly and oaks with Master Gardener Larry T. and others at Green station.



(Not pictured:) Kathleen R. and other Master Gardeners teach "Trees as Food" at Red station: sassafras, mulberry, roughleaf dogwood, sugar maple and sumac.

Tipton County Master Gardeners are the trained volunteers of the county's Agricultural Extension Service. We study, practice and teach scientific gardening as defined by the studies of the land-grant universities throughout the United States. **Classes for new Master Gardener interns begin in early 2024:** registration is now open. You can reach us through our County Extension Office at **901-476-0231**.