

## EVENTS FOR LATE SUMMER 2014!!

Time to harvest, and plant and grow late crops! Check out all the upcoming events, seminars, workshops, etc. in the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue! Many opportunities to get those 8 CEUs necessary to meet your MG certification requirements!!

### Another PLANT SWAP at the August NE TN Master Gardener Meeting! Plan Now to Attend and Bring Great Plants!

The August MG meeting is on Monday, August 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Gail Shaver. Gail lives at 1404 Big Hollow Road, Blountville, TN 37617. In addition to the PLANT SWAP, Gail will show us her livestock tank kitchen garden. Gail and Jane will provide hot dogs with homemade chili, so bring a side dish or dessert, if you have time. She has a large garage in case of rain. Bring a chair! Make your list now - plants to swap, a chair and a side or dessert. Rain or shine, see you there!!! This meeting will count as CEU's.



### HOMEGROWN TOMATO FEST X is August 9!



Plan to bring those tomatoes you are growing to enter in the contests at the Tenth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest. This celebration of the juicy red fruit will take place Saturday, August 9, 2014, from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street in Kingsport. With tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, cooking demonstrations, tomato-growing advice and activities for kids, Homegrown Tomato Fest is fun for the whole family.

Gardeners are invited to bring tomatoes to compete in the following categories: Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre, and Best Dressed, and cooks are invited to enter the Best Salsa Contest. Admission is free and there are no entry fees. Entry forms may be downloaded from the SAPS website, [www.saps.us](http://www.saps.us), or picked up at the Downtown Kingsport Association. Entries will be accepted from 8-9 am for all contests with winners announced after 10 am.

Volunteers are needed to help slice tomatoes, staff the salsa booth, coordinate children's activities, etc. Your volunteer time counts for your Master Gardener hours. Contact Dennis Marshall, Tomato Fest Chairman, at 423-288-3675 or [dmarshall@chartertn.net](mailto:dmarshall@chartertn.net) Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and Downtown Kingsport Association.

## August Trip

### UT Gardens (Knoxville) and Plateau AgResearch Station Fall Festival (Crossville)

Don't forget it is not too late to sign-up for this trip. All the information can be found on [netmga.net](http://netmga.net) site and it was in the last newsletter. The deadline to sign up is July 30\*\*. Plan to go along and bring a friend. This trip is open to everyone. Call Jane Mullins for more information at 423-737-7915 or email [ajtmul35@yahoo.com](mailto:ajtmul35@yahoo.com).

\*\***NOTE:** Sign up deadline has been **extended** to August 4, but must be completed by end of NETMGA Meeting.

## 2014 Master Gardener Classes

The 2014 Master Gardener Classes are being planned. The classes will be in the evening and are set to begin on September 4, 2014\* at 6:30 p.m. The class location is tentatively planned to be at Northeast State College in Blountville, on Monday and Thursday nights or Tuesday and Thursday nights\*. (\*NOTE: Location & exact nights aren't finalized, but will be set by enrollment deadline.) Enrollment deadline is Aug 22. If any of your friends are interested, please have them contact the UT Extension Office in Blountville at 423-279-2810 or they can email Chris at [cwramsey@utk.edu](mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu) for an application. The cost of the class is \$165.00.

## Buds for the 2014 Classes

Please help our new Master Gardener Class **Sprouts** by becoming their **Bud**. It is a relatively simple job and is a great way to meet some really special new friends. All you have to do give the Sprouts a phone call to welcome them to the class and see if they have any questions. You may want to give them your phone number and email so they can contact you, if they have more questions later. The time you spend will count as ACT hours. This year if you want to be a **Bud**, please call Gail Shaver at 423-323-1817 or email her at [cgs1955@gmail.com](mailto:cgs1955@gmail.com).

## Moderators Needed for the 2014 Classes

Anyone interested in being a moderator for one of the MG classes should contact Jane Mullins at [ajtmul35@yahoo.com](mailto:ajtmul35@yahoo.com) or phone 423-737-7915. The classes will meet in the evening, either Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Thursday\*. Moderators are asked to come to the class early to be sure the room is set up correctly, to help set up refreshments, to introduce the speaker, keep the speaker on schedule, and to do any clean up needed after the class. It may also involve securing and returning equipment from Chris. This job will count as ACT hours for those who volunteer.

\*The schedule should be finalized soon and will be sent to everyone via email.

### ***Featured Project***

Featured Projects will return in the next MG Thymes Newsletter



## Cultivating Leadership

This section is dedicated to those who share their gifts and talents with our organization by fearlessly managing and leading Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners. The goal is to educate NETMGA members about each leadership position and encourage those who may feel that serving on the board might be their cup of tea. The positions highlighted are currently held, however if you are interested, just work on building a relationship with person in charge.

I've never known an organization that did not have a treasurer. This is an essential leadership role because monetary funds are a vital resource that allows NETMGA to do so much in our community. Our treasurer is \*Pat Mazurkiewicz and she has been on the job for five years. Pat sums up her work as simply keeping everyone on track with the ebb and flow of Master Gardening Funds. This means a bit of travel. In addition to board meetings, Pat makes herself available for meetings at the Extension Office throughout the year. She is well versed in the financial guidelines as outlined by our bylaws. Annually she prepares a financial report for an audit and presents a similar (and simpler) report for general membership meetings throughout the year. In addition to those gatherings, Pat attends planning meetings and audit meetings, reporting about four hours per month. She has the great joy of working with the secretary, RuthAnn Ranker, when submitting her reports and with membership chairperson, Sally Richards, when depositing dues. The computer programs that Pat uses to make this magic happen are Microsoft Spread Sheet (or Open Office Calc and Writer). Although the job seems very fastidious, it allows Pat to enjoy what she calls her favorite part of being a treasurer-working with different kinds of people and gaining insights into plants.

If you think the treasurer position would be something you may like to take on one day, get to know Pat. And while she is answering all your questions, don't forget to thank this great lady for all the awesome help she has provided to our organization!

\* A special thank-you to Pat Mazurkiewicz for her keen insights during this email interview!

-- Amy Yeary Holmes

**Master Gardeners:  
report your hours each month!!**

## Chris' Corner



**CHRIS RAMSEY**  
AN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT  
(423) 646-9043  
cwr Ramsey@utk.edu

THANK YOU for your contribution to the NE TN Master Gardener program. Our local program is one of the strongest in the state with numbers of local projects, educational impact, participation in Winter School and in the Search for Excellence project entries, and representation on the MG State Advocacy Board.

It is a real privilege to serve you as you educate our local homeowners. I would like for you to always

remember the Master Gardener program is service-oriented and the mission of the program is to educate the Tennessee homeowner about homeowner horticulture.

You should always strive to incorporate an educational component in our local Master Gardener projects. And remember, the Master Gardener program should always be connected with the University of Tennessee and could not exist without its support.

We are now at the midpoint of the 2014 gardening year. Remember to submit your volunteer hours. Hopefully, you will be able to enter these online but remember the blue paper report form is available if you choose. The 2014 Master Gardener program will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup>; please promote this program in your local community. If you have any questions, please call or text 423-646-9043.

## 2014 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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## 2014 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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## Tips for food safety for outdoor events

*Summer fun includes food, but don't let spoiled food spoil the fun!*

With summer in full swing and outdoor barbecues part of the weekly fare, an expert with University of Tennessee Extension reminds consumers that food safety can make or break an outdoor activity.

“Whether it’s a picnic at the park, camping in the mountains, or living on the boat, food is often a common denominator for fun,” said Janie Burney, a professor of family and consumer sciences. Burney says these simple rules can keep food-borne pathogens from ruining your summer:



- Plan ahead. If you are traveling with perishable food, place it in a cooler with ice or freezer packs.
- Pack safely. Pack perishable foods directly from the refrigerator or freezer into the cooler. Be sure to keep raw meat and poultry wrapped separately from cooked foods and ready-to-eat foods such as fruit or vegetables. If the cooler is only partially filled, pack the remaining space with more ice. Keep the cooler in an air-conditioned area of your vehicle, rather than in a hot trunk. Limit the amount of times the cooler is opened.
- When outdoors, keep the cooler in a shady spot and cover it with a light-colored blanket or tarp.
- When camping, boating or picnicking, take along only the amount of food that can be used. Avoid leftovers.
- Don’t drink water from streams and rivers. Bring bottled water.
- Keep hands and all utensils clean when preparing food. Use disposable towelettes to clean hands.
- When preparing food, never use the same dish for raw meats and foods that will not be cooked.
- Don’t let perishable food sit out while swimming or fishing or during other activities. If the temperature is above 90 degrees F, food is not safe to sit out longer than one hour (two hours at room temperature).

Burney also reminds us that safe food habits also incorporate these simple rules:

- Frozen food should be thawed in the refrigerator.
- Do not put spoons into food after you have tasted food from that same spoon.
- Keep hot food hot, and cold foods cold.
- Encourage children to wash their hands after playing with pets, playing outside, going to the bathroom, coughing or wiping their nose and certainly before touching food.

If your outdoor fun includes grilling hamburgers, Burney recommends you play it safe by handling raw ground beef carefully.

- “First, be sure you keep the meat cold (40 degrees F or less) until it is cooked,” she says.

- “Second, cook ground beef to a safe temperature of 160 degrees F so that bacteria such as *E. coli* are killed. *E. coli* can cause severe stomach cramps, diarrhea (often bloody), and vomiting. Some infections are mild while others are life threatening. Young children, older adults and individuals with weakened immune systems are more likely than others to develop severe complications,” Burney said.

- “Third, when deciding when your hamburgers are cooked enough, use a thermometer. You cannot tell by the color,” Burney cautions. She recommends you insert the tip of the thermometer into the side of the burgers to check that the temperature has reached 160 degrees F.

“You should also clean your hands and anything that comes in contact with the raw meat thoroughly with soap and water so that you do not cross-contaminate other foods,” Burney said. She also notes that it is best not to rely solely on hand sanitizers.

In the event of a ground beef recall, return your meat to the store for an exchange or dispose of it, she said. Don’t take chances—when in doubt, throw it out!

For more information, contact your local county UT Extension family and consumer sciences agent. UT Extension provides a gateway to the University of Tennessee as the outreach unit of the UT Institute of Agriculture. With an office in every Tennessee county, UT Extension delivers educational programs and research-based information to citizens throughout the state. In cooperation with Tennessee State University, UT Extension works with farmers, families, youth and communities to improve lives by addressing problems and issues at the local, state and national levels.

Contact: Dr. Janie Burney, UT Family and Consumer Sciences, 865-974-7402, [jburney@utk.edu](mailto:jburney@utk.edu)

**6/27/2014**

*Patricia McDaniels, pmcdaniels@tennessee.edu*



## NETMGA Projects List

1. **Appalachian Fairgrounds** Gray  
Herb Garden Debbie Green [djgreen1955@gmail.com](mailto:djgreen1955@gmail.com)  
Water Wise Gardens Joy Stewart [joylarry@btes.tv](mailto:joylarry@btes.tv)
2. **Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park** Kingsport  
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net)
3. **Carver Peace Gardens** Johnson City  
Sam Jones 423-773-3204 [simpleintn@yahoo.com](mailto:simpleintn@yahoo.com)
4. **Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden**  
Marcia Vandermause [mmvdvm@charter.net](mailto:mmvdvm@charter.net)  
Judy Penley [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com)
5. **Exchange Place Living History Farm** Kingsport  
Earl Hockin-Vegetable Garden [ehockin@yahoo.com](mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com)  
Dave Gostomski-Lawns, Trees, etc. [e3fan98@yahoo.com](mailto:e3fan98@yahoo.com)
6. **Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Doug Hilton [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com)
7. **Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital** Johnson City  
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 [voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net)  
  
Quillen Rehabilitation Carol Collins 423-639-0341 [ccollins47@Comcast.net](mailto:ccollins47@Comcast.net)
8. **Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees**  
Johnny Sutters 423-323-2202 [ichemie@aol.com](mailto:ichemie@aol.com)
9. **Rocky Mount Living History Site** Piney Flats  
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392 [donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)
10. **Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park** Elizabethton  
Vikki Bradach [vbradach@gmail.com](mailto:vbradach@gmail.com)
11. **Tipton Haynes Historic Site** Johnson City  
Claudia Hazel [claudiajhzl@yahoo.com](mailto:claudiajhzl@yahoo.com)
12. **Vance Community Gardens** Bristol  
Gini Powell [PowellG@btcs.org](mailto:PowellG@btcs.org)  
Rebecca Craddock [Craddockr@btcs.org](mailto:Craddockr@btcs.org)

Projects 13 and 14 are one weekend a year for each of the 5 activities:

13. **Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo**  
Penny Rutledge [pennyrutledge2@aol.com](mailto:pennyrutledge2@aol.com)
14. **Kingsport MeadowView Women's Expo, Home Show and Farm Show**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433

## AUGUST 2014 Calendar of Events

JUL 31 Herb Saplings Meeting

7pm at Exchange Place. Mona Lisa Café will provide program.

AUG 2 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count

Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. Sessions begin at 9am and 1pm ET. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area. (Rain date to be announced).

AUG 2 Ben Hunter - Fall Gardening

10:00am – 1:00pm - Sycamore Shoals State Park Community Room (Registration not required); Information: 423-543-5808.

AUG 2 Gardening with Children Symposium

8:30am - 3:30pm.; The University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville, TN

This symposium is designed for teachers, Master Gardeners, volunteers and home-schooled families who are interested in learning more about gardening and how it can impact children's education. Participants will acquire techniques to enhance their curricula using garden-based learning. Contact: 865-974-7151

AUG 2 A Southern Appalachian Tree Walk in the Gardens

10am – 12pm; The Botanical Gardens at Asheville

Rebecca Priddy, Certified Naturalist, will lead a walk in the Botanical Gardens and using a tree checklist, observe the Southern Appalachian trees that live here. You can read more about Becky at her blog: <http://ayearwiththetrees.blogspot.com>. Meet at the BGA Visitor Center. Rain or Shine: bring rain gear/umbrella! Cost: BGA members: \$12, non-members: \$17. Reservations are required. Information/Registration: [bgardens@bellsouth.net](mailto:bgardens@bellsouth.net) or 828 252-5190.

AUG 3 Orchid Society of East Tennessee - 2pm, Gray Community Center.

AUG 4 Master Gardener Meeting, Picnic, and Plant Swap

6:30pm; Gail Shaver's home: 1404 Big Hollow Rd, Blountville, TN 37617

Another plant swap!! Plan now to attend and bring great plants! In addition to the PLANT SWAP, Gail will show us her livestock tank kitchen garden. Gail and Jane will provide hot dogs with homemade chili, so bring a side dish or dessert, if you have time. She has a large garage in case of rain. Bring a chair! Make your list now - plants to swap, a chair and a side or dessert. Rain or shine, see you there!!! This meeting will count as CEU's.



## AUGUST 2014 Calendar of Events - continued

AUG 5 Washington County Bee Keepers Association

Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1 – 7:30pm

AUG 9 Kingsport Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest

8:00 - 11:00am at the Farmer's Market on the corner of Center and Clinchfield Streets.

AUG 16 Hypertufa Planter Workshop at Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum

10:00am-12:00pm; Hypertufa is an artificial stone made from a few simple ingredients, used to create planting containers and garden art. Grounds Manager Mathew McMillan will show you how easy it is to make beautiful faux stone containers to liven up your garden. The class will cover materials, forms, colorants, and more. All materials will be provided. Things can get messy so dress accordingly. Registration is required; class space is limited to 12 people.

Cost: \$25-members, \$30-nonmembers. Contact/Register: 865-862-8717 or

[info@knoxgarden.org](mailto:info@knoxgarden.org).

AUG 18-23 Appalachian Fair, Gray

AUG 20 Botany Walk at Ardinna Woods Arboretum and Butterfly Garden, Jonesborough

2:00 - 4:00pm; leader: Foster Levy, ETSU Botany Department

AUG 22 Moth Watching Night at Botany Walk at Ardinna Woods Arboretum and Butterfly Garden, Jonesborough

9:00 - 10:00pm; leader: Larry McDaniel, Steele Creek Park naturalist

AUG 23-24 The 2014 Speaking of Gardening Symposium

Speakers whose renowned horticultural experience and design philosophies will be of significant interest to professionals and garden enthusiasts. Inspiring lectures on creative design, innovative horticulture practices, and unique plant specimens are the focus of this two day event. Other highlights are book signings by our speakers and live & silent auctions of rare and unusual plants. Table displays by sponsors will give an opportunity to purchase from suppliers of plants and products in the region. The North Carolina Arboretum; Asheville, NC 28806; Cost: \$165; Information/Registration: 828.665.2492 or [www.ncarboretum.org](http://www.ncarboretum.org).

AUG 24 Botanical Garden Walk with Dr. David Clarke

9:30 – 11:30am; The Botanical Gardens at Asheville, Butler Room & Gardens

Dr. David Clarke is a botanist in the UNCA Biology Department and is regarded as a premier botanist of South American floras. He has discovered more than a hundred new plant species while exploring for the Smithsonian Institution. David possesses an unpretentious wit and an infectious style of sharing his vast knowledge of plants. Rain or shine. Cost: BGA members: \$12, non-members: \$17; Reservations are required. Information/Reservation:

[bgardens@bellsouth.net](mailto:bgardens@bellsouth.net) or 828 252-5190.



Northeast Tennessee  
Master Gardener Association  
c/o  
UT Extension Sullivan County  
3258 Highway 126, Suite 104  
Blountville, TN 37617

<http://netmga.net>

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

## AUGUST 2014 Calendar of Events - continued

AUG 25-26 FIELD TRIP to Beaver Creek Nursery and Willow Creek Nursery in Knoxville and UT Plateau Research and Education Center in Crossville

NETMGA is organizing this special travel opportunity. There is still time to sign up! The deadline is July 30 (**NOTE: Deadline has been extended to August 4; sign up must be completed by end of NETMGA Meeting**). Plan to go along and bring a friend. This trip is open to everyone. Call Jane Mullins for more information at 423-737-7915 or email [ajt-mul35@yahoo.com](mailto:ajt-mul35@yahoo.com).

AUG 30 Butterfly Watching at Ardinna Woods Arboretum and Butterfly Garden, Jonesborough  
10:00am - 12:00pm; leader: naturalist from Mountain Empire Butterfly Club