

## Spring 2016 is on the way!!

Ready to get out there and clean up your gardens, plant trees, shrubs, flowers, and veggies? The season will be here before we know it. Use the time now to get in all of your CEUs and learn a few new things to try! Take advantage of the seminars and workshops being offered right now. Check out the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



## The Master Gardener Awards Dinner

Held on February 1, the NETMGA Awards and Recognition Dinner was a huge success! Many, many thanks to all who helped put this event together. The beautiful floral table arrangements were created and provided by Carol Tyree, Class of 2015. Special thanks to you, Carol!

## NETMGA Meetings

**NETMGA Board Meeting:** Monday, March 14 at 6:00 pm in the Ticket Office at the Appalachian Fair Grounds in Gray, TN.

**NETMGA General Membership Meeting:** Monday, April 4 at the Second Harvest Food Bank, located in the old Sam's

Warehouse off Exit 63, I-81. All members of the Class of 2015 are invited to attend. This is a great way to get CEU's.

This year the Second Harvest Food Bank has graciously offered us their meeting room for all of our monthly meetings, except December. Since the Food Bank is always in need of money and non-perishable food donations to help those less fortunate in our area, please be prepared to make a cash or food donation to help the Food Bank.

The program for April will be presented by Charlene Thomas, Class of 2014. She will share many ways to bring birds, bees and butterflies into our gardens to encourage pollination.

Bring a snack to share if you have time. Drinks will be provided.

6:00 pm Networking and refreshments

6:30 pm Meeting begins



#### **A Note from Dave Gostomski:**

Mac's Medicine Mart in Kingsport has worm casting available in 5, 15 and 25 # bags from Red Bud Farms. The prices are \$19, \$29, and \$39, respectively.

## **Put These on Your Calendar**

### **Green and Growing Seminars**

Green and Growing, a series of lunchtime gardening seminars, will be presented from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on the first three Thursdays in March at the Kingsport Public Library Mead Auditorium. These free sessions, designed for beginning and experienced gardeners alike, are presented by Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Kingsport Public Library. The seminar topics are:

**March 3** - Invaders in our Gardens. Learn about non-native invasive plants and native plant alternatives with Master Gardener Nina Hedrick.

**March 10** - Fairy Gardens. Roy Odom, who holds a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture/Landscape and is a Kingsport Times News gardening columnist, will talk about creating this latest gardening craze. Whether made into a terrarium or in an open container such as a clay pot or even a tea cup, these miniature landscapes are fun and easy to create. All that is needed is a theme, a container, garden soil, plants and whatever miniatures you want to use to complete your look.

**March 17** - Seed Starting 101. March is a great time to talk about seeds! Evergreen of Kingsport's Jane Hall will walk you through starting your own garden seedlings.

For more information call Keep Kingsport Beautiful 423-392-8814.

### **Vegetable Varieties and Practices for Southern Appalachian Gardens**

Dr. R. Allen Straw, Area Specialist in small fruits and specialty crops with Virginia Cooperative Extension, will speak on "Vegetable Varieties and Practices for Southern Appalachian Gardens." on Thursday, **March 17**, at 7 pm at the Memorial Park Community Center (Johnson City Senior Center) 510 Bert Street, in Johnson City. In this program Dr. Straw will discuss vegetable varieties that perform well in our region & best garden management practices to achieve a bountiful harvest.

Allen was raised on a diversified grain and livestock farm in East-Central Illinois. He graduated from Berea College in 1985 with a B.S. degree in general agriculture. He then earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Tennessee. After 13 years of employment with the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Allen served 5 years as the statewide commercial vegetable and strawberry specialist for the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service. Now employed by VCE and stationed at the SW VA Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Glade Spring, VA, he conducts applied research in vegetable and berry crops in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Allen continues to work with numerous vegetable growers across east Tennessee. He is a highly respected and knowledgeable plant scientist who is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com).

Directions to Johnson City Senior Center at Memorial Park Community Center: From I-26 South, Take the Market Street Exit (Exit 23.) Market St. only goes right, so go straight through the intersection and turn left onto Main Street. At the intersection of Main and State of Franklin, turn left. Bert Street is the first STREET (not parking lot) after you go past the post office. (Don't be fooled by the driveway on Main Street. That is the back of the building.) Turn right on Bert St. The main parking lot will be on the right. The program will be held in the Dining Room.

## **Rick Darke to Present Programs in Northeast Tennessee**

Renown horticulturist, landscape designer, author and photographer, Rick Darke, whose books include *The American Woodland Garden* and *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* (coauthored with Doug Tallamy) will present programs at two public events in Northeast Tennessee on March 21 and 22.

On **Monday, March 21, 2016**, Johnson City Public Library will host "An Evening with Rick Darke & Amy Fahmy" at the Carnegie Hotel at 1216 West State of Franklin Road in Johnson City, TN from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. The event will feature a conversation with Darke facilitated by Fahmy, Lead Horticulturist at Sitework Studios in Asheville, NC and lead designer of the pollinator gardens at both the JCPL and Natural History Museum at the Gray Fossil Site.

General tickets to the event are \$50 and may be purchased by calling the JCPL at 423-434-4450 or online at [www.jcpl.net](http://www.jcpl.net). A limited number of special event tickets are available for \$100 and include VIP seating and a meet and greet with Rick Darke prior to the main event. Wine and hors d'oeuvres are included with all ticket prices. After the event Darke will be available for a signing of his book *The Living Landscape: Designing for beauty and biodiversity in the home garden*. The book will be available for purchase at a special event price.

Proceeds from the Johnson City Public Library event will benefit the pollinator garden on the front lawn of the Library. Through the month of March, visitors can sponsor a plant found in the pollinator garden and they will be invited to celebrate the completion of the garden in the spring at a "Garden Party." Pictures of available plants are located in the Galleria and the price to sponsor is on a tag beside each picture.

"An Evening with Rick Darke & Amy Fahmy" is sponsored by J&W Landscapes, ETSU Departments of Art and Design, Sociology and Anthropology, the Center for Community Outreach, Pollination Project: "What's the Buzz," the Office of Sustainability, Siteworks Studios, Friends of the Johnson City Public Library and Southern Appalachian Plant Society.

On **Tuesday, March 22**, the East Tennessee State University and General Shale Natural History Museum and Visitor Center at the Gray Fossil Site is hosting a special evening with this expert on living landscapes. At 6 p.m., Rick Darke will give a presentation titled "Collision or Collusion? Culture, Ecology, Landscape." You can expect stunning photographs and a thoughtful discussion exploring the places where human culture and native ecologies meet. Afterward, Darke will be available for a meet-and-greet and book-signing.

Also during the evening, the museum will present plans for a pollinator garden designed by Sitework Studio of Asheville, NC which will be located in front of the main building. The garden will include plants from the Miocene Epoch, to which the Gray Fossil Site fossils date. Guests are encouraged to sponsor a plant to be purchased for the new "living landscape" pollinator garden at the museum. The Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) is cohosting the event.

The evening's activities at the Fossil Site are free and open to the public. Registration is requested. To register or for more information email [barberj@etsu.edu](mailto:barberj@etsu.edu) or call 423-439-3642.

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

## Excellent Plants for Shade Gardens

Horticulturist Jason Reeves, will present "Excellent Plants for Shade Gardens." on Thursday, **April 21**, at 7 pm, at Johnson City Power Board Building Auditorium on Boones Creek Road (Hwy 354.) in Jonesborough. With beautiful photography Jason will display an exuberant array of shade plants. He will focus on colorful foliage, both evergreen and deciduous, while also highlighting how your shade garden can flaunt flowers year-round.

As a special bonus for SAPS members only Jason will present a second program, "Gardens of England" from 4-5 pm at the same location.

A rising star in the world of horticulture, Jason Reeves is noted for his plant knowledge, creative designs and engaging style. A contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine, Jason currently serves as the research horticulturist and curator of the UT Gardens Jackson, located on the grounds of the West Tennessee Ag Research and Education Center. There he creates the various seasonal horticultural displays, conducts research on herbaceous and woody ornamentals, and has spearheaded many projects, including the creation of a Certified Tennessee Arboretum and the development of a Southeastern Regional Conifer Display Garden. His colorful plant combinations and unique garden art, made by recycling everyday objects, draw thousands of people to the research center's annual Summer Celebration, voted a "Top 20 Event" by the Southeast Tourism Society. In the fall Jason creates an elaborate fall display at the center using more than 5,000 pumpkins, gourds and winter squash comprising over 90 varieties he grows each year. He is much in demand as a speaker and leads numerous domestic and international garden tours.

A native of west Tennessee, Jason Reeves received his Master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from University of Tennessee Knoxville. Before coming to the UT Gardens, Jason worked at the Opryland Conservatories, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the famed Longwood Gardens. He has also worked as a horticulturist at the Palomia Gardens in New Zealand.

## Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon

**April 22-24** - Combine two full days of educational gardening seminars with three days of shopping in a marketplace filled with an array of plants, yard tools and art, outdoor furniture and you have the most diverse garden show in our region – the Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon.



The educational aspect of the show includes national and regional gardening experts presenting seminars on topics ranging from using trash to create treasures in the garden to learning how to grow micro-greens in your own kitchen. The keynote speaker is Judith Tyler, a nationally recognized author and breeder of Hellebores which are also known as Lenten Roses. These fabulous evergreen flowers are in bloom from December through April. If you do not have them in your garden, Garden Faire is the place to buy and learn about growing them.

Spend the day learning, shopping and enjoying lunch or a snack at the Garden Café. Bring plant or soil questions to the Plant Clinic. Proceeds from Garden Faire support a Virginia Tech endowed scholarship for students from our region, as well as numerous community gardening projects. See a complete schedule of events at [www.gardenfaire.net](http://www.gardenfaire.net).

## Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair

The 32nd annual Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair will be held Saturday, **April 30**, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, **May 1**, from 12 - 5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, Tennessee. The oldest garden fair in the region and a favorite among gardeners, the event will feature thousands of plants for sale - perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs - with the emphasis on herbs, natives and heirloom plants (including a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes), along with garden related arts and crafts. The Fair is also an educational and family event that fills the grounds and buildings of the historic site, and gardening experts in specific topics and Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer home gardening questions throughout the weekend. Heritage breeds of animals and the spring activities on a mid-1800's farmstead will be featured as volunteers shear the sheep, spin and weave the wool, cook over the hearth, and shape iron over the forge. Children's activities abound as volunteers help children create garden crafts and learn gardening skills, and area 4-H groups show their animals. Ol' timey music and traditional foods add to the atmosphere.

The Fair strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible with recycling, composting, and re-using. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own plant carriers and to bring used nursery pots (quarts and larger) for reuse.

To help gardeners reduce their water bills, Rain Barrel Kits will be available for \$40 (check or cash) throughout the weekend. The 55 gallon food grade plastic barrels (which can be painted as desired) may be assembled into a finished rain barrel on site in less than 30 minutes or the kit and instructions may be taken home to complete.

Admission is \$3 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, call 423-288-6071. [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info)

Master Gardeners are an important part of the Garden Fair. To volunteer to staff a shift at the Master Gardener booth, please call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail at [ijnmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:ijnmoore@embarqmail.com). Volunteers are also needed to help with parking, set-up, hospitality, take-down/clean up, and other aspects of organizing the Garden Fair. Volunteer time counts as Master Gardener hours. To volunteer call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail at [ijnmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:ijnmoore@embarqmail.com).





**Chris' Corner**

**CHRIS RAMSEY**  
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT  
(423) 646-9043 [cwramsey@utk.edu](mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu)

Just a few things to consider. If you haven't heard, the 2016 MG State Conference will be held in Knoxville this year March 17-19. The Junior Master Gardener Training will be offered on the first day of the state conference. Register by March 2 if you want to attend. On March 22, we will hold the annual fruit tree grafting workshop. Call if you are interested in attending or if you would like to volunteer for this event.

Spring is just around the corner and forsythia will be blooming soon. This is the signal the soil

temperature is warming up and weeds like crab grass and goosegrass will be germinating. Just as forsythia blooms, you should apply a pre-emergent to prevent these unwanted grasses in the lawn and garden. It is best to apply these just before a rain to insure activation of the active ingredient.

If you need to contact me, the best way is by text message or calling my cell phone at 423-646-9043. Enjoy your gardening and Master Gardener volunteering!

**2015 NETMGA Projects List**

**1**  
**Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park** Kingsport  
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net)

**2**  
**Carver Peace Gardens** Johnson City  
Sam Jones 423-773-3204 [simpleintn@yahoo.com](mailto:simpleintn@yahoo.com)

**3**  
**Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden**  
Marcia Vandermause [mmvdvm@charter.net](mailto:mmvdvm@charter.net)  
Judy Penley [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com)

**4**  
**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)

**5**  
**Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com)

**6**  
**Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital** Johnson City  
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 [voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net)

**7**  
**Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees**  
Contact Chris Ramsey for details

**8**  
**Rocky Mount Living History Site** Piney Flats  
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392  
[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

**9**  
**Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park** Elizabethton  
Vikki Bradach [vbradach@gmail.com](mailto:vbradach@gmail.com)

**10**  
**Tipton Haynes Historic Site** Johnson City  
Vern Maddux [vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com](mailto:vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com)  
Betts Leach [BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

**11**  
**Vance Community Gardens** Bristol  
Gini Powell [PowellG@btcs.org](mailto:PowellG@btcs.org)  
Rebecca Craddock [Craddockr@btcs.org](mailto:Craddockr@btcs.org)

**12 & 13**  
Projects 12 and 13 are one weekend a year for each of the 4 activities:

**Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo**  
Penny Rutledge [pennyrutledge2@aol.com](mailto:pennyrutledge2@aol.com)

**Kingsport MeadowView Home Show**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com)

# How We Found Out That I Have Lyme Disease...From A Tick Bite

From *The Fun Times Guide*, 04/2008

I live in Tennessee. I was recently diagnosed with Lyme Disease.

It was after a month of “weird” symptoms, several trips to the doctor, and several rounds of tests, that they finally realized that Lyme Disease was the reason for all of my recent ailments. Lyme Disease was actually the last thing they tested for.

I’m one of the lucky ones. Typically people go through upwards of 20 doctors and years of wrong diagnoses and treatments before they are accurately diagnosed with Lyme Disease.

## My Symptoms

My symptoms were typical to those experienced by others with Lyme Disease in some ways, but not in others.

Here’s what I started experiencing — out of the blue — one morning:

- **Massive aches and pains in all joints** — mostly feet and neck, and to a lesser degree my hands (fingers). It was so bad in my feet that it was *very* hard to walk. And so bad at my neck that I couldn’t turn my head to the right or left, up or down; the muscles were so tight leading to a stiff neck like I’ve never experienced before.
- **Fever**
- **Swelling** in my ankles, hands, wrists, and feet.
- **Every single lymph node in my body was sensitive** to touch, and those areas just ached all the time — without being touched.
- **Every single muscle in my body ached** for no reason.
- A weird **sensitivity on various places of my scalp**. NOT a headache though. It’s as if the pain was from the inside out, but you didn’t notice it until you touched it on the outside.
- **Inner ear pain**. It was as if I had water in my ears, plus there was a minor ache way inside all the time.
- My **throat was very red**, but it wasn’t sore.
- **Numbness** that came & went on my last 3 fingers on each hand (fingertips only), as well as the last 3 toes on each foot (tips only). Plus, the tips of my ears felt tingly and numb most of the time.
- Complete **lack of energy** — partly due to the pain. Partly due to just feeling fatigued and frustrated that no one could find a reason for all of my aches and pains.

## Other symptoms that began to appear a week or so later...

- **Weight loss for no reason**. This continued even while I was on Prednisone for nearly a month, and Prednisone is supposed to make you *gain* weight.
- A **crazy fast heartbeat** that comes and goes. Once I went off the Prednisone, this symptom pretty much went away.
- **Constant ringing in the ears**. This one continues to this day. It starts the moment I wake up. I was also noticing a greater sensitivity to loud or high-pitched sounds.

## The Meds I’ve Tried

Remember, Lyme Disease was the last thing they tested for. At first, we weren’t sure if my symptoms were the result of something viral, bacterial, or what — so the doctor put me on 2-week course of Antibiotics and Prednisone (mostly for the swelling I think). I quickly realized it was the Prednisone that was having the biggest effect because I took it in several doses throughout the day. And I knew when it was getting time for another dose, because my body would start to tighten up and get sore again.

## How I'm Feeling Today

It's still very early... it's only been about 2 months since my symptoms first started. But at this point, I'm only dealing with 4 main symptoms and I've have no meds in my system at all for the past 2 weeks:

- **Neck pain at the base of the scalp**... which goes along with the scalp sensitivity all over... which goes along with the swelling in my face, neck, and head .And the deep inner ear pain is still there.
- My **eyesight seems to be getting worse**.
- Another new symptom: **headaches!** We're talking round the clock here.
- **Difficulty concentrating** — like I'm in a daze. I'm feeling **quite forgetful**. All of these things just lead to even more **fatigue and frustration**. The symptoms are never the same from one day to the next.

Unfortunately, these symptoms seem to be getting increasingly worse, so I guess it's time for another visit to the doctor. This time it will be a specialist, at my doctor's recommendation (a rheumatologist). Plus, I'm thinking I don't want to go too long without some form of treatment for the Lyme Disease anyway.

## More About The Onset Of Symptoms

One of the strangest things about Lyme Disease is that the symptoms are rarely the same for any 2 people diagnosed with the disease. It usually doesn't present itself in the form of visible symptoms until many months — if not years — after you get the tick bite that infects you. Couple this with the fact that you can actually test “negative” for Lyme Disease for months or years, *despite* the fact that you have Lyme Disease in your body just waiting to make its grand appearance in your life.

Lyme Disease is an auto-immune disease. That is, a disease where the immune system attacks the person's own organs. This happens when something confuses the immune system.

## Some of The Doctor's Early Theories

Despite the fact that my tests kept coming back negative for each of these, some of the things my doctor thought could be going on were:

- Strep Throat
- Rheumatic Fever brought on by strep
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Mono
- Thyroid

I didn't tell anyone about my symptoms until after I got the diagnosis, because I didn't want others to (unintentionally) scare me with symptoms and diagnoses that they were familiar with, or that they've heard others have experienced. Or maybe something they've read about this or that. Instead, I wanted to rely 100% on the doctor at this point.

### **Master Gardeners Thymes Editor's Note:**

This article has been edited due to its length. To read the entire article click on this link:

[https://health.thefuntimesguide.com/2008/04/lyme\\_disease\\_symptoms.php](https://health.thefuntimesguide.com/2008/04/lyme_disease_symptoms.php).

In addition to this, there are other related articles about Lyme Disease in the South. Another good one, “The Confounding Debate Over Lyme Disease in the South”, can be accessed using this link:

<http://discovermagazine.com/2013/dec/14-southern-gothic>.

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## MARCH 2016 Calendar of Events

- MAR 1 Washington County Bee Keepers Association  
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- MAR 1 – Mid-MAY Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders (W.O.W.W.)-Warriors'  
Path State Park  
3:00 pm. Meet at Warrior's Path Pool Entrance and come along for an hour or so of nature exploration. Contact: 423-239-8531.
- MAR 3 Green and Growing Lunchtime Gardening Seminar: Invaders in Our Gardens-Invasive Plants.  
12:00-1:00 pm. Learn about non-native invasive plants and native plant alternatives with Nina Hedrick. Kingsport Public Library, Mead Auditorium. Free Admission. Contact: 423-392-8814.
- MAR 3 Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place 7:00 pm
- MAR 4-6 Kingsport Home Show at MeadowView Conference Center, Kingsport
- MAR 5 Sycamore Shoals State Park – Gardening with Ben Hunter  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm; Vegetable Gardening. Meet in Park Conference Room. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- MAR 5 Composting and Amending Your Garden and Flower Bed Soils  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- MAR 5 Attracting Birds, Bees, and Butterflies with Charlene Thomas  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- MAR 5 Lawn Care-Prevent Weeds, Fertilize and 4-Step Program  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- MAR 5 Three Season Gardens at First Presbyterian Church, Kingsport  
10:00am-12:00pm. Class provided by Harvest of Hope Community Garden. Subject to weather conditions. Contact [hohgarden@gmail.com](mailto:hohgarden@gmail.com) if attending.
- MAR 6 Specialty Plant Sale & Lecture - UT Gardens Knoxville  
1:30 - 3:00 pm. Lecture by Dr. Sue Hamilton; 3:00 - 5:00 pm Plant Sale: Winter Blooming Shade Perennials - Helleborus and Epimedium. Location: Hollingsworth Auditorium; Cost: Free. Information & Register: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>

- MAR 10            Green and Growing Lunchtime Gardening Seminar: Fairy Gardens  
 12:00-1:00 pm. Roy Odom, who holds a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture/Landscape and is a Kingsport Times News gardening columnist, will talk about creating this latest gardening craze. Kingsport Public Library, Mead Auditorium. Free Admission. Contact: 423-392-8814.
- MAR 12            Moss String Gardens  
 10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Create hanging plants in moss-lined soil. Includes workshop to make your own; workshop fee: \$12. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- MAR 12            Honey Bees with John Hamrick  
 10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- MAR 12            Raised Bed Gardening with emphasis on Spring Gardens  
 10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- MAR 12            Underground Crops at HOH Garden, Kingsport  
 10:00-11:00 am. Class provided by Harvest of Hope Community Garden. Subject to weather conditions. Contact [hohgarden@gmail.com](mailto:hohgarden@gmail.com) if attending.
- MAR 12            Wood Identification with Ron Lance  
 1:00 – 4:00 pm; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.
- MAR 12            Adult Workshop: Soil/Worm Bins - UT Gardens Knoxville  
 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Class will look at the benefits of healthy soil and explore ways to improve your gardens' soil. We will also explore worm compost and participants will get to make a worm bin to take home. \$25/member, \$35/nonmember. Information & Register: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>
- MAR 12-13        Organic Growers School Annual Spring Conference  
 Information and Registration: <http://organicgrowersschool.org/annual-spring-conference/>
- MAR 14            NETMGA Board Meeting            6:00 p.m. at the Appalachian Fairgrounds, Gray TN.
- MAR 17            Green and Growing Lunchtime Gardening Seminar: Seed Starting 101  
 12:00-1:00 pm. Evergreen of Kingsport's Jane Hall will walk you through starting your own garden seedlings. Kingsport Public Library, Mead Auditorium. Free Admission. Contact: 423-392-8814.
- MAR 17            "Vegetable Varieties and Practices for Southern Appalachian Gardens" presented by Dr. Allen Straw, Virginia Cooperative Extension  
 7:00 pm; Memorial Park Community Center (Johnson City Senior Center) 510 Bert Street, in Johnson City. Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com).
- MAR 17-19        Tennessee Extension Master Gardener State Conference
- MAR 19            Small Space Veggie Gardening and/or Workshop  
 10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Container and raised bed gardening; workshop fee: \$15 (includes 14" bowl, soil, & seed for lettuce/greens bowl). Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.

- MAR 19 Herb Container Make & Take Workshop  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Activity fee: \$25. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- MAR 19 Spring Hike-Sunrise Hike at Warriors Path State Park  
6:30 – 8:30 am – Meet at Park soccer field parking area. Dress appropriately for weather. Contact: 423-239-8531.
- MAR 19 Spring Hike-Arboretum Ramble at Sycamore Shoals State Park  
10:00 am – Meet at Park Visitor Center Lobby. Dress appropriately for weather. Reservation required. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- MAR 19 Spring Hike-Spring Clean-Up Hike at Roan Mountain State Park  
1:30 – 4:30 pm – Meet at Park Headquarters/Conference Center Parking Lot. Dress in warm layer in clothes you don't mind getting dirty, work gloves, and sturdy boots. This hike/project is considered strenuous and is suitable for participants ages 16 and older. Contact: 423- 772-0190.
- MAR 21 “An Evening with Rick Darke & Amy Fahmy”  
5:30 to 8:00 pm. Event is at the Carnegie Hotel, 1216 West State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN, Tickets: \$50/\$100. Information and tickets: JC Public Library 423-434-4450 or online at [www.jcpl.net](http://www.jcpl.net).
- MAR 22 “Collision or Collusion? Culture, Ecology, Landscape.” Presented by Rick Darke  
6:00 pm, at the Gray Fossil Site. Free and open to the public. Registration is requested. To register or for more information email [barberj@etsu.edu](mailto:barberj@etsu.edu) or call 423-439-3642.
- MAR 24-26 Beginning Beekeepers School  
<http://www.wcbeekeepersassociation.com/>
- MAR 26 Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs & Annual Forsythia Festival  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- MAR 26 Wake up Your Landscape (pruning, fertilizing, and mulching)  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- MAR 26 Above Ground Crops at HOH Garden, Kingsport  
10:00-11:00 am. Class provided by Harvest of Hope Community Garden. Subject to weather conditions. Contact [hohgarden@gmail.com](mailto:hohgarden@gmail.com) if attending.
- MAR 30 Stone in the Garden - The North Carolina Arboretum  
1:00 – 4:00 pm. Instructor: Doug Dearth. Discussion and slide presentation about using stone to enhance the garden and to solve many common landscape problems. Class concludes with a walking tour of the Arboretum grounds to view and assess examples of stone projects. \$38 Member/\$48 Non-Member. Registration: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/Stone-in-the-Garden>

## APRIL 2016 Calendar of Events

- APR 2 Spring Cleaning (3 parts/3 speakers)  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. 1) Preparing flower & perennial beds for spring 2) Caring for & preparing garden tools 3) Preparing landscape trees and shrubs for spring. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- APR 2 Lawn Care - Weeds, Weeds and Less Weeds  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- APR 3 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.
- APR 3 Plant Families with Marc Williams  
12:00 – 4:00 pm; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Participants will reinforce plant identification skills by observing family patterns such as leaf, flower and fruit types. The phenomenon of exotic invasive plants will also be covered in relation to their family membership. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.
- APR 4 NETMGA General Membership Meeting  
6:00 pm-Networking; 6:30 pm-Meeting begins. Second Harvest Food Bank, Blountville TN. Charlene Thomas, Class of 2014, will present “Pollinators – Bees, Birds and Butterflies”
- APR 5 Washington County Bee Keepers Association  
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- APR 5 Beating Back the Invaders - The North Carolina Arboretum  
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Instructor: Nina Shippen. Participants will learn the latest in remedies to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive plants such as kudzu, ivy, privet, and bittersweet. \$27 Member/\$37 Non-Member. Registration:  
<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/Beating-Back-the-Invaders>
- APR 6 Adult Workshop: Construction, Tomato Towers - UT Gardens Knoxville  
6:00 - 7:30 pm. how to build your own Tomato Tower to grow the best tomatoes on. Participants will leave with a constructed tower to use in the home garden. Cost: \$25/member, \$35/nonmember. Information & Register: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>
- APR 7 Great New Garden Roses - The North Carolina Arboretum  
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Instructor: Judy Deutsch. This class will review newer roses, with emphasis on those with fragrance. Older but lesser known roses that perform well in our area will also be discussed. \$27 Member/\$37 Non-Member. Registration: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/Great-New-Garden-Roses>
- APR 9 Perennials  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- APR 9 Landscape Design Kit Workshop  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).

- APR 9 Woolly Day at Rocky Mount State Historic Site  
11:00 am – 5:00 pm. Wool processing, fireside cooking, gardening, candle-dipping and more. Cost: \$5. Contact: 423-538-7396.
- APR 15-17 37th annual Spring Nature Festival at Warriors' Path State Park  
Participate in guided hikes and mini-seminars on a wide range of nature topics. Free; no pre-registration needed. Contact: 423- 239-8531.
- APR 16 Fruit Trees and Berry Shrubs  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Special speaker: John Hamrick, Washington County Extension Office. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- APR 16 Vegetable Container Gardening with EarthBoxes and Pots  
10 am - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- APR 16 Landscape Seminar & Plant Auction at Sycamore Shoals State Park, 9 am – noon. Contact: 423-543-5808
- APR 17 Annual Spring Wildflower Walk with David Clarke  
9:30 – 11:30 am; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.
- APR 19, 21, 23 Beekeeper Basics – UT Extension-Greene County  
Cost: \$40. Advanced registration required by April 15. For more information: 423-798-1710 and [http://www.bsmga.com/store/p21/2016\\_Beekeeping\\_Basics.html](http://www.bsmga.com/store/p21/2016_Beekeeping_Basics.html)
- APR 20 Gardening with Herbs - The North Carolina Arboretum  
10:00 – 11:30 am. Instructor: Lisa Wagner. The instructor will share ideas and examples of how to include herbs in borders, beds and containers to create maximum visual impact while discussing growing the best varieties of common herbs such as thyme, rosemary, oregano, and parsley and less familiar herbs. \$27 Member/\$37 Non-Member. Registration: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/Gardening-With-Herbs>
- APR 21 "Excellent Plants for Shade Gardens," by Horticulturist Jason Reeves  
7:00 pm; Johnson City Power Board Auditorium.
- APR 22-24 Spring Naturalists' Rally at Roan Mountain State Park Contact: 423- 772-0190.
- APR 22-24 Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon, VA Complete schedule of events: [www.gardenfaire.net](http://www.gardenfaire.net).
- APR 23 Fairy Gardening (with optional workshop)  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- APR 23 Community Plant Exchange at Sycamore Shoals  
9:00 – 10:00 am. Bring cuttings and potted outdoor and indoor plants, to exchange. Contact: 423-543-5808
- APR 29 Inspiration Planters 6 pm - Evergreen – Riverport Rd Kingsport. Register: [www.3Gardenplace.com](http://www.3Gardenplace.com).
- APR 30-MAY1 Spring Garden Fair at Exchange Place Living History Farm  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm-Saturday; 12:00-5:00 pm-Sunday. Contact: 423-288-6071 or [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info)

