

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A CHRISTMAS PARTY / Silent and Live AUCTION benefitting the NETMGA UT Endowment Foundation

Join us to celebrate, and bring a friend  
Monday, December 5  
6:00 p.m.  
Colonial Heights Christian Church Fellowship Hall  
105 Meadow Lane  
Kingsport, TN 37663

Hosted by: NETMGA

RSVP by DEC. 2 to:  
Pat Mazurkiewicz  
232 Cherry Street  
Blountville, TN 37617-4743

Please make checks to:  
UT Endowment Foundation for \$15.00 per person by December 2.

Menu  
Appetizers  
Sunday Best Chicken  
Beef Brisket  
Rice Pilaf  
Herb Buttered Vegetables  
Tossed Garden Salad  
Rolls  
Cheesecake w/fruit topping  
Assorted Beverages

## **Autumn is here!!**

This year is speeding to a conclusion!! Soon it will be time to turn back the clocks to standard time.

It isn't too late to learn and earn those CEUs! Check out all the upcoming events, seminars, workshops, etc. in this issue! Still plenty of opportunities to get the 8 CEUs necessary to meet your MG certification requirements!!



**NETMGA Board Meeting:** Monday, November 7, 6:00 p.m., at Appalachian Fairgrounds Ticket Office in Gray.

### **Special Announcement:**

The NETMGA board voted at the September meeting to change the date of future board meetings to the First Monday of Odd months, starting with the November 2016 meeting. This meeting will be on Monday, **November 7**, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ticket Office at the Appalachian Fairgrounds in Gray. Any Master Gardener who is interested is welcome to attend.

\*\*The board has also asked a member to design a Facebook page for NETMGA. We will notify you when we have a test run, so you can check it out.\*\*

### **Request for Silent Auction Items for December 5 Dinner/Auction**

Please contact Jane Mullins at 423-737-7915 or [ajtmul35@yahoo.com](mailto:ajtmul35@yahoo.com), or Nina Hedrick at 423-239-9604 or [hedrick@chartertn.net](mailto:hedrick@chartertn.net), if you have an item to donate for the Silent Auction. Re-gift items or gently used items related to gardening and anything you think someone would like to bid on for a Christmas gift. Last year, we had some great items, photos, hair care products, quilted items, stained glass, home-baked goods, Christmas decorations, and much more. All proceeds from the auction go to the UT ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION. Please help us reach our goal to fully fund the Endowment. Jane will be glad to pick up your donations ahead of time or you can drop them off at the Colonial Heights Christian Church, 105 Meadow Lane, Kingsport, TN between 12:00 noon and 4:00 P.M. on December 5.

## Put These on Your Calendar

### Herb Saplings Meeting

**November 3** at 7 pm at Exchange Place. Herbal Holiday Workshop. Demonstrations of making botanical decor for Thanksgiving and Christmas and hands on crafting of body care products using household ingredients will highlight our last meeting of the year. Guest herbalist Candace Simmerly will guide you in making your own lip balms and sugar scrubs (nominal \$5 supply fee). Please register in advance by calling 423-348-6572 or [jnjmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:jnjmoore@embarqmail.com). Christy Shivell will show how to make holiday arrangements with herbs and other natural materials from your garden. Bring a favorite herbal snack for the holidays to share if you have time. Herb Saplings is a focus group of SAPS, and any SAPS member is welcome to attend. There will be no December or January Herb Saplings meeting.

### November SAPS Program - Easy Care House Plants

Horticulturist and garden writer Hugh Conlon will speak on "Easy Care House Plants" on Thursday, **November 17**, at 7 pm at the Memorial Park Community Center (Johnson City Senior Center,) 510 Bert Street in Johnson City.

In this program Hugh will show photos of over 35 terrific interior plants and discuss good house plant soils and fertilizers to purchase, the best flowering house plants, plants that will grow in different areas in the home, when and how to repot plants, and clay pots versus plastic. He will also take questions from the audience.

Hugh Conlon is an active garden writer and speaker since his retirement from the University of Tennessee in 2011. He has been a professional horticulturist for 45 years. Hugh is the creator of the gardening website: [whatgrowsthere.com](http://whatgrowsthere.com). He speaks at Master Gardener classes in Tennessee and presents garden club talks and nursery/landscape programs in Tennessee and other states. In addition he contributes articles to *Tennessee Gardener* and other gardening magazines and consults frequently with gardeners, commercial landscapers and growers.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, he and his wife Jane have raised 4 wonderful children, Mary, Susan, Patrick and Brian, and have 5 grandchildren. Hobbies include gardening, photography, and writing.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS,) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information email [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.

### UT Extension Fruit Tree Specialist, Dr. David Lockwood, to Speak on Growing Fruits Trees and Berries

On Tuesday, **November 29** at the UT Extension Office Meeting Room, 3258 TN-126, Blountville, TN 37617 at 6:00 p.m., Dr. Lockwood will speak to the 2016 UT Extension Master Gardener Class. All TEMG's are invited to sit in on the class and you are welcome to bring a friend. For more information, please contact Chris Ramsey, UT Extension Agent, Sullivan County at 423-279-2723.

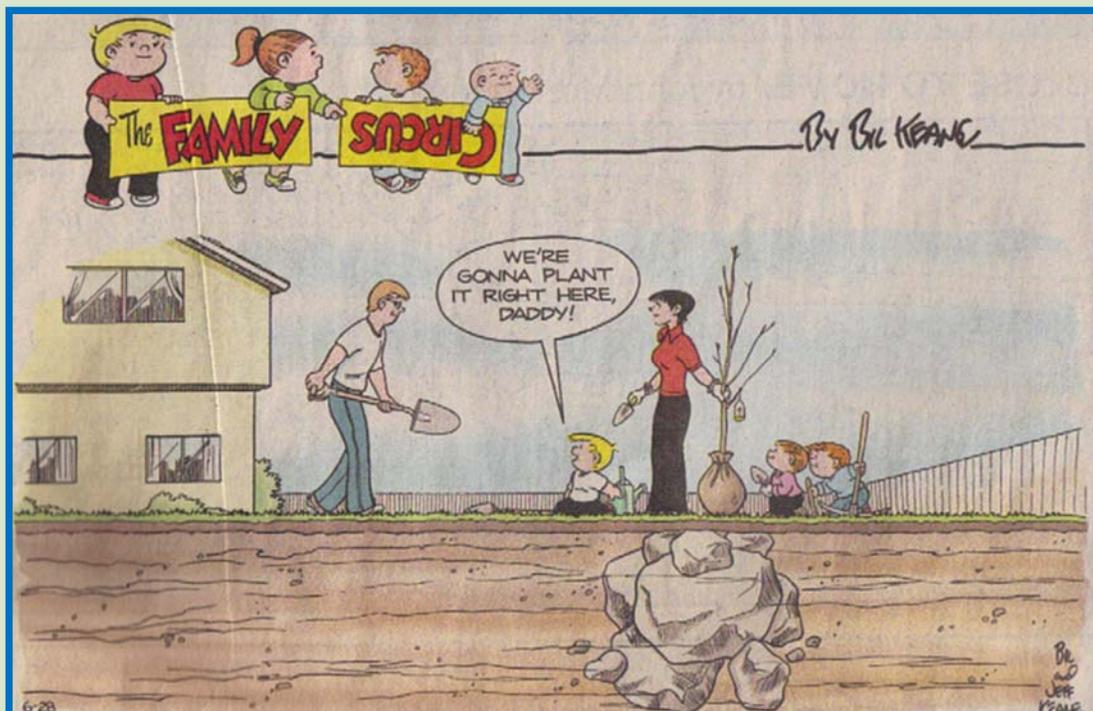
## Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will offer two Wreath Making Workshops this year: an evening workshop on Tuesday, **November 29**, from 5:30 - 9 pm and a daytime workshop on Wednesday, **November 30**, from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. With inspiration and guidance from Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Plant Farm, participants will create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. All materials - fresh greenery, cones, dried flowers, wreath form, and wire - will be provided. Celebrate the holidays with a fresh wreath you make yourself!

The cost is \$30 (\$25 for SAPS members and Exchange Place volunteers) and includes all materials and a light supper for the evening workshop and a soup lunch for the daytime workshop. These are very popular classes so don't wait to register. To reserve your place, mail check, payable to "Exchange Place," to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. Registration is limited to 15 participants for each session. Registration deadline is November 25. Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Proceeds from the workshop go to Exchange Place's restoration efforts. For more information call Joy Moore at [423-348-6572](tel:423-348-6572) or e-mail [jnjmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:jnjmoore@embarqmail.com).

## Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, **December 3**, from 10 am - 4:00 pm. Fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, unique folk arts and handcrafts, herbal products and traditional holiday foods will be on sale. The celebration also features hands on activities for all ages and demonstrations of hearthside cooking and baking on the 19th century farmstead. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail begins at 4:15 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call [423-288-6071](tel:423-288-6071). <http://exchangeplace.info>



## Winter Garden

Even without its abundant summer vegetation, your garden can look gorgeous. Now's the time to make it happen.

Great beauties have great bone structure. As in Hollywood, so in gardens. And a garden's structure is particularly evident in winter. But when the trees and shrubs are bare, and the flowers long gone, what's there to see? Chances are, you're hoping for a couple of inches of snow to blot the forlorn sight from view. There's another way to look at it. You can adjust your vision and appreciate winter's minimalist palette. This is a season of stone grays, sere browns and creams, the blackish green of evergreen needles against a washed, white sky. Open your eyes to subtle differences in texture and whispers of color; recognize the grace of trees and shrubs as they adjust to the season. It's beautiful out there. Stripped to its essentials, the garden is both dramatic and self-sustaining. And we have simple suggestions to help you make your winter landscape stunning.



### Souvenirs of summer

Fall cleanup is an annual ritual for flower beds (and yes, those impatiens and other annuals will freeze and turn to mush, and there is no sense in leaving them). But wait until spring to cut back sturdy perennials such as sedum, false indigo, bee balm, and coneflowers. Their slender brown stalks add height and texture. Ornamental grasses and Scotch broom also hold their mounded shape through the winter, standing tall and rustling evocatively in the wind.

### The first flowers

Longing for blooms? Push the season with hellebores, whose hanging cuplike flowers range from deep maroons to greeny whites. They're among the first to bloom, even in the snow. Witch hazel (*Hamamelis* spp.)

is one shrub that blooms very early; its pale yellow flowers are sweetly scented. Winter-blooming heaths (*Erica* spp.), with their tiny white, pink, purple, or yellow flowers, are especially welcome in a rock garden or edging a snow-lined pathway.

### Bright berries

Even tiny bits of color make a great impact in the gray months. That's why hollies and their berries are so popular. Try a variegated variety, such as 'Madame Briot' with leaves outlined in gold. Many other bushes and trees, such as mountain ash (*Sorbus* spp.) and *Arbutus* spp., produce berries that will help sustain birds. If roses are left undeadheaded, they'll develop glossy hips. Hardy rugosa roses produce particularly large and shiny hips that linger far into winter.

### Snow falling on conifers

This is the season to appreciate the ways in which conifers add definition to the landscape. The sturdy grandeur of a Douglas fir with its branches reaching out like huge open arms; the tall and weeping deodar cedar; the umbrella pine that evokes Tuscany; or the Canadian hemlock, with its glossy and soft green needles; any of these will take on new prominence against gray skies. Even the classic green pyramid of an eastern white pine or a Fraser or balsam fir becomes statuesque

at this time of year. And a whole row of junipers or Colorado blue spruces (*Picea pungens*) will create a sense of enclosure or hide an unsightly view. For more suggestions, read *Organic Gardening's* article "The Many Shades of Evergreen," in the November/December issue and also on [organicstyle.com](http://organicstyle.com).

## Elegant bark

Deciduous trees we take for granted all spring and summer stand out like ink drawings against the winter sky. To up the drama further, plant trees with interesting bark. The peeling bark of birches such as *Betula davurica* or 'Jermyns,' a cultivar of the ghostly white-barked Himalayan birch will brighten a dark corner or a dark day. Many varieties of maple, including *Acer capillipes* and *A. griseum*, have dramatically textured trunks. *Parrotia persica* sheds its bark in flakes, revealing a miniature terrain of green, brown, gray, and white, and the striated mahogany red bark of ornamental cherries will stand out with new prominence. A row of red-twig dogwoods (*Cornus alba* 'Sibirica') becomes a vivid scarlet hedge, like a child's crayon scrawl, astonishing against the snow.

## A hedge for all seasons

You certainly don't need to settle for the sad, curled-up leaves of a scraggly rhododendron as your only source of winter greenery. Plant an evergreen hedge to give yourself color and structure that you'll value in these bare months. Use it to outline a flower bed, follow the line of a hill, or delineate an outdoor room. Precisely clipped or loose and shaggy, it will define your garden and give shelter to wildlife. Yew, arborvitae, boxwood, and barberry will all make lush, thick hedges. If you're working on a small scale, put in assorted dwarf conifers to create a low landscape in green, gold, and russet tones. Contrast the golden *Pinus sylvestris* 'Gold Coin' with *Juniperus squamata* 'Blue Star'; pair the pyramidal *Picea glauca* var. *albertiana* 'Conica' with the low-growing *Thuja occidentalis* 'Caespitosa.'

## How to get started

Fall is the best time to plant, as long as you have a good six weeks before the first expected hard frost. Without having to produce leaves, trees and shrubs can put their full energy into their roots, ensuring sturdy spring growth. And many local nurseries have end-of-season sales. If the local selection is skimpy, consider mail order from three excellent nurseries that specialize in evergreens, grasses, trees, and shrubs: Heronswood Nursery in Kingston, Washington (360-297-4172, [Heronswood Nursery](http://www.heronwoodnursery.com)); Arborvillage in Holt, Missouri (816-264-3911); and Noble Plants in Athens, Georgia (706-613-0046). All will work with you to find plants that are suited to your hardiness zone, soil conditions, and amount of sunlight and shade. The best gardens respect natural conditions and don't require chemical fertilizers or lots of water in dry climates. Choose plants that are right for your garden, give them basic care, and they will thrive. Three books will prove helpful information. *The American Horticultural Society Encyclopedia of Gardening* (Dorling Kindersley, 1993) is a thorough reference that categorizes plants by seasonal interest; *Designing with Trees*, by Anthony Paul and Yvonne Rees (Salem House, 1989), is full of inspiring photographs; and *Taylor's Guide: Shrubs*, by Kathleen Fisher (Houghton Mifflin, 2001), tells you all you need to know about the plants that are the backbone of any garden.

- by Michael Boodro, for Rodales's Organic Life



**Chris' Corner**

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

Chris has been very busy with Extension Office duties and the NETMGA 2016 Class.

Chris will share his wisdom at the December General Meeting so plan to be there!"

**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)

## NOVEMBER 2016 Calendar of Events

- NOV 1      Washington County Bee Keepers Association  
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- NOV 3      Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park  
3:00 pm. Wander in the wonder of the natural world! Be prepared to be "wowed" by the amazing discoveries in our nearby natural places. Contact: 423-239-6786 Email: [marty.silver@tn.gov](mailto:marty.silver@tn.gov)
- NOV 5      Clean Air Plants for Indoor Gardens  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- NOV 5, 12, 19, 26    Guided Trail Walk (Free)  
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Each Tuesday and Saturday in November. The North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC. Phone 828-665-2492
- NOV 7      NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:00 pm. Appalachian Fairgrounds Ticket Office
- NOV 10     Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park  
3:00 pm. Wander in the wonder of the natural world! Be prepared to be "wowed" by the amazing discoveries in our nearby natural places. Contact: 423-239-6786 Email: [marty.silver@tn.gov](mailto:marty.silver@tn.gov)
- NOV 11     Winter Waterfowl of Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN  
4:00 pm. Meet Don at the Nature Center for a mild stroll around the lake. Contact: 423-989-5616.
- NOV 12     Spring Blooming Bulbs  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.
- NOV 17     Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park  
3:00 pm. Wander in the wonder of the natural world! Be prepared to be "wowed" by the amazing discoveries in our nearby natural places. Contact: 423-239-6786 Email: [marty.silver@tn.gov](mailto:marty.silver@tn.gov)
- NOV 17     SAPS Meeting. Easy Care House Plants with Hugh Conlon.  
7:00 pm; Memorial Park Community Center (Johnson City Senior Center)

## 2016 NETMGA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Bill Speed  
423-483-1511  
[bspeed@lbrtax.biz](mailto:bspeed@lbrtax.biz)

VICE PRESIDENT Jerry Ramey  
423-863-4599  
[ramey4820@gmail.com](mailto:ramey4820@gmail.com)

TREASURER Pat Mazurkiewicz  
423-323-1644  
[robmazur@chartertn.net](mailto:robmazur@chartertn.net)

SECRETARY Nancy Schilling  
423-833-1420  
[nancyschilling@gmail.com](mailto:nancyschilling@gmail.com)

MEMBER AT LARGE Johnny Suthers  
423-323-2202  
[jchemie@aol.com](mailto:jchemie@aol.com)

PAST PRESIDENT Delette Walker  
423-434-9992  
[ddw270@embarqmail.com](mailto:ddw270@embarqmail.com)

ADVISOR Chris Ramsey  
423-646-9043  
[cwramsey@utk.edu](mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu)

## 2016 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CERTIFICATION OFFICER Angie Droke  
423-578-8281  
[adroke@chartertn.net](mailto:adroke@chartertn.net)

MEMBERSHIP Sally Richard  
423-341-6166  
[sdr37615@comcast.net](mailto:sdr37615@comcast.net)

PROJECTS Johnny Suthers  
423-323-2202  
[jchemie@aol.com](mailto:jchemie@aol.com)

2015 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES  
Linda Wolford  
423-391-7385  
[lpwolford2@gmail.com](mailto:lpwolford2@gmail.com)

Joe Wooten  
678-817-8281  
[joe76dw@outlook.com](mailto:joe76dw@outlook.com)

PROGRAMS Jane Mullins  
423-212-0173  
[ajtmul35@yahoo.com](mailto:ajtmul35@yahoo.com)

WEBSITE Carl Voight  
423-467-2013  
[voigt7@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7@comcast.net)

PUBLICITY Gail Shaver  
423-323-1817  
[cgs1955@gmail.com](mailto:cgs1955@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Betts Leach  
423-571-8662  
[BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT DESIGN  
Junella McClellan  
423-534-8097  
[j.mcclellan@hotmail.com](mailto:j.mcclellan@hotmail.com)

HOSPITALITY Kathy & Larry Wagner  
423-323-5446  
[kwagner@chartertn.net](mailto:kwagner@chartertn.net)

NOV 18 Home Grown: Autumn Leaves Collection and Identification  
09:30 am – UT Gardens, Knoxville. Rm 124 South Greenhouse. \$5.00 per student. <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org>

NOV 19 Volunteer Work Day at Rocky Fork State Park  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm – Contact 423-271-1233

NOV 19 Terrariums  
10:30 am – Evergreen of Johnson City. Pre-registration recommended: (423) 282-3431.

NOV 25 After Thanksgiving Hike along portions of the walking path at Sycamore Shoals.  
7:00 am – Sycamore Shoals State Park. Reservations required: 423-543-5808

NOV 25 Hike to Devil's Fork  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Come burn off those Thanksgiving calories with this adventurous hike to Devils Fork! This hike is moderate-difficult in difficulty and open to both adults and children. Bring your own lunch, plenty of water, wear comfortable hiking attire, and just in case bring rain gear. Phone: (423) 271-1233

## DECEMBER 2016 Calendar of Events

DEC 2 Winter Greenery Hike at Steele Creek Park, Bristol, TN  
4:00 pm. Meet Don at the Nature Center for a holiday themed adventure. Contact: 423-989-5616.

DEC 2,3,9,10 Candlelight Christmas  
4:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Rocky Mount State Historic Site. Reservations Recommended

DEC 3 Christmas in the Country  
10 am - 4 pm. Exchange Place, Kingsport.

DEC 3 Visions of Christmas: 1860  
2:00 – 6:00 pm. Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site. Admission is \$4.00 for adults/\$1.50 for children.

- DEC 3      Seasonal Wreaths. Create your own holiday wreath.  
 1 – 3 pm. UT Gardens, Knoxville. Rm. 124 South Green House. Cost \$25/members, \$35/nonmembers. Pre-registration required. <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org>
- DEC 3      Kokedama Christmas. Create your own ancient variation Bonsai  
 9:30 – 11:30 am.    UT Gardens, Knoxville. Rm. 124 South Green House. Cost \$30/members, \$40/nonmembers. Pre-registration required. <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org>
- DEC 5      NETMGA General Membership Meeting  
 6:00 pm. Colonial Heights Christian Church Fellowship Hall. See invitation in this newsletter.
- DEC 6      Washington County Bee Keepers Association  
 7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- DEC 10     Adopt a Tree – For every tree you help plant you will get one to take home.  
 10 am – 12 pm. Warrior’s Path State Park 423-239-8531. Supplies are limited.

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

**2017 NETMGA Membership Form**

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year (\$25.00 for a couple) and are due by December 31, 2016.  
*If dues are not paid by February 1, 2017, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed.*

Mail to: Sally Richard 137 Benwood Lane Gray, TN 37615

<b>Name</b>			<b>Class Year</b>	
<b>Address</b>				
<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>County</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>			<b>Phone #</b>	
Please check if you <b>cannot</b> receive the newsletter via e-mail				

Please remember to report your volunteer and CEU hours and verify you have met your certification requirements.

[http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg\\_resources/tmg\\_login.asp](http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_resources/tmg_login.asp)

