

September is Here!

With September come thoughts of planting fall crops and plants, trees and shrubs, perennials for next year, and garden clean-up.

Check out the opportunities to learn about fall gardening and earn 2017 CEUs and volunteer hours the next couple of months. See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



in

Master Gardener Membership Meeting



Our next general meeting will be on **October 2nd**. The program will be Growing Garlic with Rodney Webb from Salamander Springs Farm. Doors open at 6:00 for networking and the meeting will begin at 6:30. Feel free to bring a covered dish to share. We will meet at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

NETMGA Board Meeting

Monday, **September 11** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan County Extension Office, 140 Spurgeon Lane Blountville, TN.

Put These on Your Calendar

Herb Saplings Meeting

September 7, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Herbs of Folklore and Legend: Exploring the rich superstitions and stories associated with some of our most beloved useful plants with Christy Shivell. Bring and herb snack to share if you have time. Herb Saplings is a focus group of Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS.)

"Autumn - Nature's Last Hurrah" Gardening Lecture

Horticulturist and garden writer Hugh Conlon will speak on "Autumn - Nature's Last Hurrah" on Thursday, **September 21**, 7 p.m. at Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. in downtown Kingsport.

Fall in the garden is not just changing leaf colors, planting mums, and pumpkin displays. Autumn weather here in East Tennessee is usually very comfortable and relatively dry. This permits gardeners to toil less and enjoy their gardens. There are so many wonderful fall blooming plants that we can be planting, some that extend into the winter months. With gorgeous photos, Hugh will showcase some of the best plants for a spectacular fall garden and offer lots of useful landscaping ideas.

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. 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.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572 or email sapsinfo@embarqmail.com.

Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 46th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, **September 23**, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, **September 24**, from 12 noon to 5 pm. The Festival will focus on pioneer arts and crafts and harvest time activities on an 1850s farm. Admission is \$3 for adults with children under 12 admitted free.

Artists from throughout the region will gather to demonstrate and sell functional necessities of long ago as well as hand crafted arts of today. Guilds, associations of artists, will pass along their skills and wisdom to others as they would have in the 19th century. Many unique items will be for sale including cuckoo clocks, leather fly swatters, hand carved caricatures, dough bowls, white oak piggins, quilted wall hangings, hooked rugs, refurbished cane chairs and one of a kind jewelry...all handcrafted out of natural materials. Juanetta Swatzell of Greenville will do a "Quilt Turning" as she shares stories of quilts collected over decades on Saturday at 11 am and 2 pm, and on Sunday at 2pm.





The Harvest Market areas will offer fall produce as well as plants, cut flowers and seasonal crafts along with a wide range of baked goods and goat milk cheeses.

Heritage Artists and volunteers will bring history alive with demonstrations and hands on activities. Sorghum making will be a highlight of the festival as volunteers demonstrate the whole process - from cutting and milling the cane to squeezing the juice with an animal powered press to boiling the syrup. Volunteers will also be cooking

over the hearth and stirring apple butter, and Boy Scout Troop #255 will continue the tradition of grinding apples into cider as the group has been doing at the festival for over thirty years.

Children's activities abound as children are encouraged to create games as well as do the "chores", just as a child might have done in 1850. Children of all ages will enjoy meeting the heritage breeds of animals on the farm, including our horses, cow, sheep and guinea hogs. There is always plenty of food, including kettle corn, funnel cakes, fried pies, lunch items, and more. As always during festivals, the grounds of the farmstead will be alive with music with old and new favorites playing throughout the weekend.



Sullivan County 4-H Club will again be hosting the popular Scarecrow Challenge, which encourages individuals, groups and families to be creative as they continue the tradition of making a scarecrow. To be judged, Scarecrows must be on site by 11am Saturday.

One of Exchange Place's most popular events every year is Witches Wynd, a Halloween-based storytelling adventure, which will take place on Friday, October 27 and Saturday, October 28, beginning each night at 8 pm. Tickets go on sale for the first time during the Fall Folk Arts Festival. Only a limited number of tickets are available and they sell out quickly, so we encourage people to purchase them at the Festival. Tickets are \$8 and will be found at the Museum Store.

For more information, call 423-288-6071 or see <http://exchangeplace.info>. Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth and to help with children's activities, hospitality, take down/clean up and in other ways. To volunteer please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

Exchange Place is a living history farm whose mission is to preserve and interpret the heritage of mid-nineteenth century farm life in Northeast Tennessee. Exchange Place is a non-profit organization maintained and operated entirely by volunteers and is supported by donations, fundraisers, memberships and grants.

SAPS Annual Plant and Seed Swap and Silent Auction

SAPS will hold its Annual Plant and Seed Swap and Silent Auction on Saturday, **October 14**, at the Appalachian Fairgrounds at Gray. Building #1, 11 am – 1:30 pm. Start potting up plants and gathering seeds to share. Plan to put the most special plants in the silent auction. Peruse your recipes for a favorite to share at the pot luck luncheon. The Plant Swap is a SAPS members-only event. However, if you're not a SAPS member yet, you may join at the Swap and you'll have membership through 2018.



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



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
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Our 2017 Master Gardener classes begins this coming week! My how time moves so quickly. I hope you will take the opportunity to attend one of the Fall Master Gardener Classes this year. The Master Gardener Class Planning Committee has organized a great schedule of classes.

If you haven't visited our new office at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center, you should definitely come out to a class this year on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, with the exception of a couple of field trips. We

have a great audio/visual system with projectors, speakers, and microphones if needed. We also have nice training room tables, comfortable chairs, and a nice kitchen.

The Fall MG Classes will be a great opportunity for you to refresh on a topic of interest and reconnect with Master Gardeners you haven't seen in a while. Before and/or after class, you can enjoy our spacious front porch and mountain view.

Hope to see you soon!

NETMGA Projects List

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| <p>1
Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park Kingsport
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 geduncan@charter.net</p> <p>2
Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 nancyshilling@gmail.com</p> <p>3
Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden
Marcia Vandermause mmvdvm@charter.net
Christine Barger 423-288-5115 o773h@hotmail.com</p> <p>4
Exchange Place Living History Farm Kingsport
Earl Hockin-Vegetable Garden ehockin@yahoo.com
Dave Gostomski-Lawns, Trees, etc. e3fan98@yahoo.com</p> <p>5
Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com</p> <p>6
Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net</p> <p>7
Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees
Contact Chris Ramsey for details</p> | <p>8
Rocky Mount Living History Site Piney Flats
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392
donfdavis@aol.com</p> <p>9
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Elizabethton
TBA</p> <p>10
Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
Vern Maddux vjornmaddux@embargmail.com
Betts Leach BettsL@aol.com</p> <p>11
Vance Community Gardens Bristol
Gini Powell PowellG@btcs.org
Rebecca Craddock Craddockr@btcs.org</p> <p>12 &13
Projects 12 and 13 are one weekend a year for each of the 4 activities:</p> <p>Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo
Penny Rutledge pennyrutledge2@aol.com</p> <p>Kingsport MeadowView Home Show
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com</p> |
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Featured Project

Rocky Mount Living History Site

Every Monday morning the Master Gardeners meet at Rocky Mount Historical Museum to work in the many gardens, add new landscape features or maintain the 40 plus areas. Monday the Museum is closed so we can work in the historical area without being in period dress. However, many of the master gardeners also will dress for special events; the summer camps, Woolly Days, and our Fall Festival coming this October 14. Also, on Mondays we can use power tools. But Monday isn't the only day that Master Gardeners can be found working there. There is the Saturday crew that arrive before the museum opens until 11 AM taking care the Herb/Kitchen Garden and Mrs. Cobb's cutting garden. This crew has done a fabulous job of starting these areas over in early spring and providing a garden that the Governor can be proud. You do know that the Governor has made Rocky Mount the temporary capital of the territory? Other Master Gardeners work during the week, before or after open hours.

Master Gardeners have been extremely busy this year besides weeding, planting, etc. Early in the year we built a retaining wall to keep the hill from taking away the sidewalk. This fall we will do extensive planting on the hill. Also, we installed 3 flag poles in the front of the museum, and our next project is to surround them in a raised bed in the shape of Tennessee. We added a picnic area, a fire pit and water plants to the pond we installed a couple of years ago. We are still adding stones around the area, so if anyone wants to donate additional stones please contact Don Davis.



The butterfly garden has been a hit all year long; it was great to see all those monarch caterpillars last year. Another project completed this year was rebuilding the comfort station and making sure to have a large supply of lamb's ears just as you enter; plus, a supply of corn cobs inside if you forgot the lamb's ears.



We planted more trees in the lots purchased from a developer across the street, to providing screening from the new homes that would not have been there in 1791, the year Rocky Mount first-person interpreters portray. Many thanks to all the Master Gardeners who have made all the gardens and landscape important features at this museum. If you are interested in working at Rocky Mount or just want a grand tour – contact Don Davis at donfdavis@aol.com.



Feed the pollinators!



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Perennial Surprise



Perennial gardening for me has always been so enjoyable...not because perennials come back every year, but because they're always so full of surprises. Every spring I anxiously wait to see what's going to come up. As the old saying goes, "The first year they sleep, the second year they creep and the third year they leap!" This year was no exception.

After moving into a new home two years ago, I needed to plant more lime green plants in my partial shade garden so I purchased a new Heuchera named Dolce™ Key Lime Pie (Proven Winners). With beautiful ruffled chartreuse leaves in the spring, it was supposed to turn lime green as the season progressed. It was described as having light pink flowers, but didn't flower the first year.

I already had several varieties of purple heucheras scattered around the yard and their flowers were pretty but not their main feature. I bought them for their foliage color and wasn't expecting this new one to be any different.

The next year, I was blown away by the amazing show the new Dolce™ Key Lime Pie put on. When it began to flower in mid-April, the flowers were absolutely show stopping! Tall sturdy stems held the most beautiful pale pink flowers I had ever seen on a Heuchera. Since they were planted in front of a red brick wall, the contrast was just stunning and it kept on blooming for almost seven weeks. During that time frame, we had several severe thunderstorms, but neither the rain nor the wind brought down those stems.

Last fall, I purchased two more Dolce™ Key Lime Pie Heucheras and decided to plant them in containers since I wasn't ready to plant them in the ground. They spent the winter in two 14 inch insulated plastic pots outside and did great. These are wonderful container plants and the chartreuse color makes them a special accent. Their fluffy leaves stay neat all season and their well-controlled growth makes them good companion plants for any mixed grouping.

This year they were finally planted in the ground. They went into the same bed as the first one, each about ten feet apart with white and pink Bloomathon Azaleas in between them. Can't wait to see next spring's show! With so many new cultivars on the market today, you should check them out.

Sue Stanley, Certified Tennessee Master Gardener since 2006, gardening in Knoxville TN

SEPTEMBER 2017 Calendar of Events

- SEP 2 Fall Lawncare
10:30 am. Learn the Dos and Don'ts of fall fertilization, seeding, & weed control. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com
- SEP 5 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:00 pm; Gray Ruritan Bldg, Ruritan Dr (behind fairgrounds), Gray, TN.
- SEP 7 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
- SEP 7 Herb Saplings Meeting
7:00pm. Herbs of Folklore and Legend with Christy Shivell. Exchange Place in Kingsport.
- SEP 8-9 Organic Growers School Harvest Conference
<http://organicgrowersschool.org/conferences/harvest/>
- SEP 8-10 Fall Naturalists' Rally at Roan Mountain State Park
Contact: 423- 543-7576 or visit www.friendsofroanmtn.org.
- SEP 9 Fall Festival – Family Fun and Savings
10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Evergreen of Johnson City. (423) 282-3431.
- SEP 9 Fall Plant and Rummage Sale at Asheville Botanical Gardens
9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Rain or Shine! Contact: (828) 252-5190
- SEP 11 NETMGA Board Meeting
6:00pm; at NEW Sullivan County Extension Office, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.
- SEP 14 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
- SEP 15 Stone in the Garden Class at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville
9:15am – 2:30pm. Classroom discussion and a slide presentation about using stone to enhance the garden and solve many common landscape problems, concludes with a walking tour of the Arboretum grounds to view and assess examples of various hardscape projects. Cost: \$58. Register: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA17-Stone-in-the-Garden>
- SEP 16 Fun Fairy Gardening Evergreen of Johnson City
10:30 am. Fun creative ideas for fairy gardening in containers & the landscape. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com
- SEP 16 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park
8:00am-12:00pm Contact: Phone: 423-271-1233 or Email: Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov
- SEP 16 Sorghum Making Festival at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site
9:00am-4:00pm. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children twelve and under, children three and under free. Contact: 423-926-3631.
- SEP 17 SAPS Wine 'n Weed at Exchange Place in Kingsport 6:00-8:00pm.
- SEP 17 A Native Plant Primer with Pat Sommers at Asheville Botanical Gardens
9:00 – 11:30am. Contact: (828) 252-5190 or http://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/wordpress_3/events-classes/adult-classes/
- SEP 21 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
423-348-6572 or email: sapsinfo@embarqmail.com
- SEP 21 SAPS Meeting: Autumn – Nature's Last Hurrah with Hugh Conlon
7:00pm. Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W Market St, Kingsport, TN. Contact: 423-348-6572 or email: sapsinfo@embarqmail.com

- OCT 7-8 The Smoky Mountain Orchid Society's 2017 Orchid Show & Sale
9:00am-5:00pm (Sat.): Orchid Sale open to public; 11:00am-5:00pm (Sat.): Orchid Show open to public; 12:00-4:00pm (Sun.): Orchid Sale & Show open to public. Stanley's Greenhouse, 3029 Davenport Road, Knoxville, TN. Information: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/2017-orchid-show-sale/>
- OCT 8 Bird Walk with Aaron Steed at Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center
9:00 – 11:00 am. Look for, listen to and enjoy the birds on this easy walk. You'll learn to recognize their songs and calls. Binoculars and field guide are helpful but not necessary. Cost: \$12 members/ \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.
- OCT 12 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
- OCT 14 Putting Your Gardens to Bed Evergreen of Johnson City
10:30 am. Tips on clean-up & winterization tasks in the garden & landscape. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com
- OCT 14 October Bird Walks with the Lee and Lois Herndon TOS Chapter, Sycamore Shoals State Park
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. 423-543-5808
- OCT 14 Spirit of the Harvest at Rocky Mount State Historic Site
11:00am. Contact: 423-538-7396 or <http://www.rockymountmuseum.com/index.php/special-events/>
- OCT 14 *SAPS Annual Plant & Seed Swap and Silent Auction 11-1:30. Appalachian Fairgrounds Bldg #1, Gray.*
- OCT 17 Autumn Harvest 2017 at Roan Mountain State Park
1:00 – 4:00pm. Includes weed removal, trail maintenance, and/or trash pick-up. Meet at Visitor's Center. Contact: 423 772-0190
- OCT 19 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
- OCT 21 Growing Herbs Indoors Evergreen of Johnson City
10:30 am. Learn about growing herbs indoors during the cool season. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com
- OCT 21 October Bird Walks with the Lee and Lois Herndon TOS Chapter
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Sycamore Shoals State Park. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- OCT 22 8th Annual Fall Festival at Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum
1-5 pm. 2743 Wimpole Avenue, Knoxville, TN. Information: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/fallfestival2017/>
- OCT 26 Weekly Outdoor Wonder Wanders at Warriors' Path State Park
3:00 – 4:30pm. 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
- OCT 26 Japanese Maples, Evergreens and Selected Unusual Plants Class at The NC Arboretum in Asheville
9:30am – 12:00pm. This class will include hands-on identification of Japanese maples and conifers at the Arboretum and other specimens. Additional topics covered will be selecting companion evergreens for Japanese maples and cold hardy tropicals including the basjoo banana that will grow in the region's climate. Cost: \$37 Member/\$47 Non-member. Register: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA17-Japanese-Maples-Evergreens-and-Selected-Unusual-Plants-in-your-Landscape>
- OCT 28 Halloween Kid's Day Evergreen of Johnson City
10:30 am. Bring the kids & join us for Halloween fun with crafts, treats, costume photos & more. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com
- OCT 28 October Bird Walks with the Lee and Lois Herndon TOS Chapter
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Sycamore Shoals State Park. Contact: 423-543-580

