

## Yes! It's Summer!

Veggies are in production; perennial gardens are in bloom, and the heat is upon us!

If you haven't started earning volunteer hours, or need to earn more, and/or you need CEUs for 2018, check out the many opportunities.

See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



## Moderators Needed For Class Of 2018

The UT Extension Master Gardener Class of 2018 will begin on Thursday, August 16 and end on November 29. The class will meet one night a week on Thursday from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Extension Office in the Ron Ramsey Ag Building, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN 37617. We need Moderators to help with the class. The duties include setting up the room, setting up the computer for the speaker, keeping time, introducing the speakers, keeping time for the break start and end, passing out handouts, helping put out refreshments and making coffee or tea, making announcements and staying to the end of class to put the room back in order after class, possibly locking the building and gate. You may count the hours including your travel. This is also a good way to get in your volunteer hours and or CEU's. Two to three moderators are needed for each class.

Please contact Nancy Shilling, as soon as possible, to sign up if you are interested. Call 423-833-1420 or email [nancyshilling@gmail.com](mailto:nancyshilling@gmail.com)

## NETMGA General Membership Meeting

The **August 6th** General Membership meeting will be held at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville, TN. Michelle Bouton of Herbalachia will be the guest speaker. She will present the similarities of Appalachian and Asian Ecology. Michelle grew up gardening in middle Tennessee. Her formal herbal studies include a Master's Degree in Chinese medicine from Daoist Traditions, and Studies at the Chestnut School, both in Asheville. She currently manages the herbal apothecary and treats patients at Appalachian Acupuncture near downtown Johnson City. The doors open at 6:00pm for networking and fellowship. The speaker will start at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring finger food or small dish to share.

## NETMGA Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be **September 3rd** at 6PM at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville, TN



### 2018 OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Gwen Ellis  
423-612-1068  
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### 2018 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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



### Projects List

#### **Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park Kingsport**

Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net)

#### **Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City**

Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 [nancyshilling@gmail.com](mailto:nancyshilling@gmail.com)

#### **Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden**

Marcia Vandermause [mmvdvm@charter.net](mailto:mmvdvm@charter.net)  
Christine Barger 423-288-5115 [o773h@hotmail.com](mailto:o773h@hotmail.com)

#### **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)

#### **Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport**

Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com)

#### **Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital Johnson City**

Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 [voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net)

#### **Johnson City Public Library**

Contact Chris Ramsey for details

#### **Rocky Mount Living History Site Piney Flats**

Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392  
[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

#### **Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Elizabethton**

TBA

#### **Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City**

Vern Maddux [vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com](mailto:vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com)  
Betts Leach [BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

#### **Vance Community Gardens Bristol**

Gini Powell [PowellG@btcs.org](mailto:PowellG@btcs.org)  
Rebecca Craddock [Craddockr@btcs.org](mailto:Craddockr@btcs.org)

The following projects 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)

## Put These on Your Calendar

### Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest at Exchange Place

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, **July 15**, from 2-5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. Farm Fest celebrates the pleasures of country life as visitors step back into the nineteenth century and enjoy fresh summer food like watermelon and corn on the cob, join in activities from bygone days like sack races, hay rides, and cakewalks. Listen to music on traditional instruments, pet the farm animals, and try your hand at old time crafts like stenciling, tin punch, and carding wool. Small children will enjoy washing clothes on the washboard and jumping in the haystack. This free event is part of Kingsport's Fun Fest, and no ticket is required. A shuttle bus will run from Mountain View United Methodist Church to Farm Fest from 1:45 to 5:30 p.m. to ease parking congestion.

This is a fun, family oriented community event and we always need volunteers. Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help with plant and garden related children's activities, teaching farm "chores" to visitors, parking cars and serving watermelon and corn on the cob. Your volunteer time counts as Master Gardeners hours. To volunteer contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or [ijnmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:ijnmoore@embarqmail.com).

### August Herb Saplings Meeting

Herb Saplings, the SAPS herb focus group, will meet on Thursday, **August 2**, at 7 pm at Exchange Place. Sheridan Nice, owner of Mona Lisa's Gelato & Cafe in Johnson City, TN, will speak on Sorbets. Sheridan is a formally French trained chef. A graduate of La Varenne, Ecole de Cuisine, Paris and a recipient of a Baking and Pastry scholarship from The Culinary Institute of America, Napa Valley, CA. Sheridan is a caterer, private chef, and teaches cooking classes in our region. She and her husband, Stephen have one of the most talked-about gardens in East Tennessee and use it to provide the freshest ingredients at their restaurant. Sheridan specializes in soups and everyday her restaurant features at least 5 or 6 wonderful selections. Please bring an herb snack if you have time.

### Homegrown Tomato Fest XIV

The Fourteenth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, **August 11**, 2018, from 8-11 a.m. at the Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street in Kingsport. This celebration of the juicy red fruit features tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, cooking demonstrations, tomato-growing advice, tomato recipes, activities for kids, and fun for the whole family.

Gather your finest and/or funkiest tomatoes and enter them in the contests for Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre and/or Best Dressed. Make an extra batch of your favorite salsa recipe and compete for bragging rights in 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 Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) or at the event. Entries will be accepted from 8 - 9 a.m. for all contests, and winners will be announced after 10 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to help slice tomatoes, make tomato sandwiches, staff the salsa booth, coordinate children's activities, etc. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday morning and see friends and neighbors at the Farmers' Market. Your volunteer time counts for your Master Gardener hours. For more information or to volunteer, 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.

## **“Featured Project” Warriors’ Path State Park**

The trend toward gardening with native plants continues, driven by increased awareness to create habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife. We use only natives at Warriors’ Path State Park. Here are a few of the native trees and shrubs that we have in the Playground, Rain Gardens and Amphitheatre area, demonstrating how these plants can be used in shrub borders, shade or woodland gardens, along streams or ponds and in naturalized plantings.

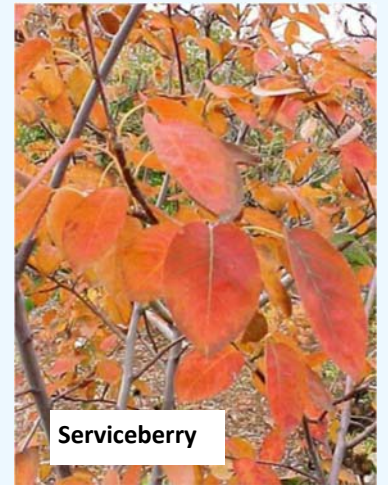
### **Buttonbush**

Buttonbush is a multi-stemmed, deciduous shrub, growing 6-12 feet tall and 4-7 feet wide. Its flowers look like small pincushions. Stems and trunks can become twisted with age, adding winter interest. It adapts to various soils and conditions, growing in full sun at the amphitheater and part shade in the rain gardens.



### **Serviceberry**

Serviceberry, also known as Juneberry, is a small tree or large shrub growing 15-25 feet tall and tolerates full sun or part shade. The berries resemble blueberries and are used in jams and pies. It provides good fall color.



### **Spicebush**

When crushed, the stems and leaves of Spicebush have a spicy, citrusy smell, hence the name. It is a deciduous shrub with a broad, rounded habit growing 6-12 feet tall. It likes moist locations in full sun to part shade. Female plants need a male pollinator to set fruit. The larva of the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly feeds on the leaves, which turn an attractive yellow in autumn.

### **Hearts-a-Bustin**

The flowers of this thin stemmed shrub are not showy. Its attraction comes in the fall when the bright red seed capsule bursts open into heart shaped segments, giving it its common name. It grows 4-6 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide with an airy habit and grows best in sun dappled shade. It will form a colony from suckers but will not spread wildly, unlike its cousin Burning Bush.

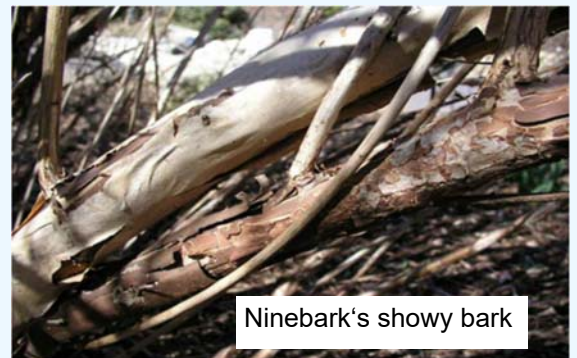


### **Ninebark**

Ninebark gets 5-8 feet tall and 4-6 feet wide in full sun to part shade. Small flowers in appear in spring but its main attraction is the exfoliating bark which reveals several layers of inner bark, giving it its common name and providing winter interest.

### **Viburnum**

There are more than 150 species of Viburnum and many are native to North America. We use Blackhaw Viburnum at the Park. It can grow to 20 feet tall and will develop an arching shape with age. It has great fall color and the blue-black berries persist into winter and are attractive to birds and wildlife.



There are many more trees, shrubs, and perennials at Warriors’ Path State Park. If you are interested learning more, please contact Gwyn Duncan, [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net). Work days are scheduled periodically spring through fall.

## **“Featured Project” Exchange Place Historical Farm**

There are two concurrent Master Gardener programs at Exchange Place. Dave Gostomski heads the group which does maintenance of buildings and the grounds and in addition plant a field crop garden. The field crop garden plantings include cotton, broom corn, corn, tobacco and sorghum. The Sorghum is used to demonstrate the making of Sorghum syrup at the Fall Festival the last weekend of September.

The second Master Gardener projector led by Earl Hockin focuses on a demonstration vegetable garden and a pollinator garden. Cynthia Johnson has taken the lead on doing rehabilitation work on the pollinator garden, which has involved weeding and planting flowers that were available in the 1850s and will attract pollinators.

The remainder of the Master Gardeners work in the Demonstration Vegetable Garden. We identify it as a Demonstration Garden as we grow both Heirloom vegetables and new hybrid varieties, including some vegetables that are not commonly grown in the area, such as Asparagus Beans and Japanese Salad Turnip. We are also demonstrating that it is possible to garden through 3 seasons and harvest year round by using appropriate cultivars and frost protection. During the last couple of years we have established raised beds or bordered beds throughout the garden and mulched between the beds with wood chips. This has greatly increased vegetable production and reduced the need for weeding and eliminated the need for tilling.

Using monies donated in memory of Master Gardener Phil Ramey who passed away July 2017 we have built a Pergola and are installing drip irrigation throughout the vegetable garden.



Liz Blakely with Asparagus Beans



Moving Posts for Pergola



Pergola is up, benches to be added



Cheryl Heisey planting sunflower seeds



Brent Tennant spreading wood chips



Cynthia Johnson and Karen Todd in Pollinator Garden

## ***“Featured Project” Johnson City Public Library***

The Johnson City Public Library is now a Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association project site! The library’s gardens are part of the “What’s the Buzz” pollinator path, a community-wide initiative to create inviting green-spaces that benefit and grow pollinator populations. With coneflower, lavender, and sage to name a few, the library’s gardens are already established but will continue to expand in size to include more pollinator-friendly plants. There is a great need for volunteers at the new site. The majority of the work will center on light but consistent seasonal-maintenance (e.g., weeding, fertilizing, etc.), with heavier efforts in early spring and late fall (e.g., spring clean-up, planting, mulching, and fall clean-up). Volunteering will occur every other Tuesday at 9:00am unless otherwise announced. Volunteer work days and times are negotiable; if Tuesdays don’t work for you, let the project site manager know. To sign up, please contact the project site manager Selena Harmon at [selenaharmon1@gmail.com](mailto:selenaharmon1@gmail.com) or 423-434-4454.

For more information on “What’s the Buzz” Johnson City, visit their facebook page. For more information on the Johnson City Public Library, visit [www.jcpl.org](http://www.jcpl.org).



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

## JULY 2018 Calendar of Events

JUL 12-28 *Liberty!* The Saga of Sycamore Shoals

Performances begin at 7:30 PM, Thursday thru Saturday on July 12-14, July 19-21 and July 26-28.

JUL 13-21 Kingsport Fun Fest

JUL 15 Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest at Exchange Place

2:00 – 5:00 pm. Information: <https://www.exchangeplace.info/festival-details>

JUL 17 The Triumph of Seeds

9:30am – 12:30pm. This course will look at the unique attributes of seeds and the seed-producing plants that dominate the earth's ecosystems and are such an important part of our daily lives. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Seating Limited. Cost: \$39-Member/\$49-Non-member. Registration required: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/SP18-The-Triumph-of-Seeds>

JUL 17-22 Summer in the Park at Warriors' Path State Park

Information: <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=summer-in-the-park--week-of-July-17>

JUL 20 Moonlight Madness at Evergreen of Johnson City

7:00 – 1:00pm. Huge discounts on greenhouse plants plus Moonlight Gardening Seminar at 8:30pm! Call 423-282-3431 to register for seminar.

JUL 26 Herbaceous Plant Propagation

1:00 – 4:00pm. This class covers herbaceous plant propagation from seeds, cuttings and divisions. We will discuss grasses, perennials, landscape and house plants, and participate in hands-on activities sowing seeds and propagating cuttings. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Seating Limited. Cost: \$39-Member/\$49-Non-member. Registration required: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/SP18-Herbaceous-Plant-Propagation>

JUL 27-29 Wild Herb Weekend, NC Herb Association

Information & registration: <http://www.ncherbassociation.org/>

JUL 28 Folklife Festival at Warriors' Path State Park

11:00am – 9:00pm. Information: <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=folklife-festival-39>

JUL 28 Xtreme Roan Adventures Youth Rally 2018 at Roan Mountain State Park

8:00am – 4:30pm. Children ages four and up enjoy a fun-filled day of nature talks, hikes, live animal exhibits, and lunch. Pre-registration required. Contact: 423-773-9234 or [Ken@XtremeRoanAdventures.org](mailto:Ken@XtremeRoanAdventures.org)

JUL 28 The Art and Science of Natural Dyes at UT Gardens

10:00am – 12:00pm. This class will explore natural dyes made from plants. Participants will get an opportunity to practice the skill and art of dying natural fibers and learn a little about cultivating plants that produce dyes so you can grow and dye at home. Cost: Garden member \$30/ nonmember \$40. Registration: [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/classic/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1429](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1429)

## AUG 2018 Calendar of Events

### AUG 1 Herbaceous Plant Propagation

9:30am – 12:30pm. A riparian buffer is a vegetated area bordering a stream, creek, river, or pond that shades streams, provides wildlife cover and prevents erosion. This class will focus on the ecological importance and small scale restoration of these areas to encourage extending wild buffers and create less invasive access points along stream banks. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Seating Limited. Cost: \$39-Member/\$49-Non-member. Registration required:

<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/SP18-Learning-to-Love-your-Riparian-Buffer>

### AUG 2 Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place 7:00 pm

### AUG 4 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count

9:00am. Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. Contact: 423-543-5808

### AUG 5 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.

### AUG 6 NETMGA Membership Meeting.

6:00pm. Program, “Eastern Medicinal Herbs” with Michelle Bouton of Herbalachia. Location: Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville

### AUG 7 Washington County Bee Keepers Association 7:00pm; 299 Gray Ruritan Rd. Gray TN

### AUG 11 Homegrown Tomato Fest XIV at Kingsport Farmers’ Market 8:00 – 11:00am

### AUG 12 Fall Vegetable Gardening at UT Gardens

2:00 – 4:00pm. Students will learn the basics of planning, planting, harvesting and using a selection of cool season edibles. A selection of premium plants including cabbage, bunching onions, broccoli, spinach and lettuce will be provided to kick start your fall veggie garden! Cost: Garden member \$30/nonmember \$40. Registration: [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/classic/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1448](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1448)

### AUG 19 Naturalist Walk with Jay Kranyik at The Botanical Gardens at Asheville

9:00 – 11:30am. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay for classes: 828-252-5190. Information: <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/events-classes/adult-classes/>

### AUG 20-25 Appalachian Fair, Gray, TN

### AUG 25 Build Your Own Terrarium at UT Gardens

10:00am – 2:00pm. Get your hands dirty while learning to design and care for a living terrarium. These open top glass planters are a wonderful way to bring the joy of nature into any indoor space. We provide all the materials you need including plants, soil, container, tools and guidance. Cost: Garden member \$30/nonmember \$40. Registration: [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/classic/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1449](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/classic/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1449)

### AUG 26 Hemlock Conservation & Restoration at The Botanical Gardens at Asheville

2:00 – 4:00pm. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay for classes: 828-252-5190. Information: <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/events-classes/adult-classes/>



