

Fall is Here! Holidays Coming!

Frost is finally happening so it's time to begin (or finalize) garden clean-up. It's not too late to plant bulbs, trees, and shrubs. It's also time to think about turkey & fixins, Poinsettias, Amaryllis, Pine Boughs, Holiday Wreaths, Christmas Trees, and more!

Do you still need to earn volunteer hours or need CEUs for 2018? There are opportunities. See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



Chris' Corner



CHRIS RAMSEY

SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT

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Our Master Gardener Training Class for 2018 is really going great. We have 34 new volunteers to plug into a great project in Northeast TN.

The new Ron Ramsey Ag Center meeting facility has offered amenities and comforts we never would have dreamed of just a few years ago. It's amazing how many people visit each month for the first time.

The Ramsey Ag Center relies on rental fees from community organizations and individuals to operate. So, I have been thinking that our Master Gardener group may be one of best marketing outlets for our new building. Please spread the word about our awesome facility. Word of mouth is often the best and least costly form of advertising.

You can direct prospective customers to the website: www.ramseyagcenter.com for more information. We have two meeting rooms. The smaller one will hold about 50 and the larger room will hold up to 300 guests.

This is a great venue for reunions, company banquets, parties, or fundraisers. Please refer to the flyer about the center included in this newsletter.

For more information, please call me at 423-646-9043.

NETMGA Board Meeting

Our next board meeting will be **November 5th** at 6PM at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville, TN

NETMGA General Membership Dinner Meeting

The **December 10th** General Membership Dinner Meeting will be held at Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville, TN. The dinner will start at 6:30 pm. We are asking MG members to bring a covered dish and NETMGA will provide the meats and drinks. We will have entertainment provided by a Quartet from Hills Are Alive! Chorus, Sweet Adelines International (MG Betts Leach is part of this chorus). Bring your favorite holiday dish and join fellow Master Gardeners for a great time and great food.

Put These on Your Calendar

Herb Saplings Meeting

November 8, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Chef Nathan Brand will discuss "The Early Spices of Appalachia" and the role each plays in defining the flavor and identity of Appalachian cuisine. Please bring an herb snack to share if you have time. Note: There is no December or January Herb Saplings meeting.

November SAPS Program - John Bartram, The King's Gardener

Award-winning designer, speaker and dramatist Kirk R. Brown will present "John Bartram, the King's Gardener" on Thursday, **Nov 15**, 7 pm, in Brown Hall Auditorium on the ETSU Campus. Spend an evening with John Bartram, horticulturist, explorer, and royal botanist to King George III in the new world as Brown portrays the life and times of the colonial-era plantsman, called "the father of American Botany." Dressed in a waistcoat, stylish breeches, and buckled shoes, Bartram will welcome you with the horticultural history of America as he began it in Philadelphia and Penn's Woods.

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

Bartram's story starts at the very beginning of the international world of plant discovery and identification, and Brown will regale us with stories of Bartram's plant collection adventures in the new American colonies, his sharing finds with Karl Linnaeus and other European botanists, his opinions of the importance of the natural world, and his friendships with Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson who found his garden a source of inquiry and pleasure.

With a background in theater Kirk R. Brown took up his personifications of John Bartram and landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead at the Perennial Plant Alliance annual meeting in Philadelphia in 2008. He has gone on to present his alter egos to numerous other organizations throughout the country. Brown is also a well-respected garden designer, keynote speaker, horticulturist, business lecturer, and design class presenter. Kirk is the recent recipient of a Silver Award from Garden Writers Association in the first-ever category of Outstanding Garden Communicator: Live Performance. A recipient of the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association "Green Achiever" Award for advancing horticulture in PA, Kirk served 20 years as business manager of award-winning Joanne Kosticky Garden Design, Inc and was recent President of GWA. He has done keynote addresses for The Perennial Plant Association, The Association of Public Gardens of America, the Philadelphia Flower Show, The Smithsonian Institution and many others. In addition he has spoken to numerous Master Gardener and other gardening groups, regional nursery associations, churches, schools and service clubs as John Bartram, Frederick Law Olmsted and himself on a variety of horticultural, theatrical and business topics. He is a charter member of Great Garden Speakers. <http://www.greatgardenspeakers.com/listing/kirk-brown.html>

Brown Hall Auditorium is located on the first floor of Brown Hall, 173 Sherrod Drive, JC, 37614 (Building #3), across from the Mini Dome. There are easy access parking lots, #26 just north of Brown Hall and #27 just east of Brown Hall. You may also use any other campus parking. No parking pass is required in the evening. <https://www.etsu.edu/ehome/documents/etsu-map.pdf>



Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place

Celebrate the holidays with a fresh wreath you make yourself. Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will offer two Wreath Making Workshops this year.

On **Wednesday, November 28**, Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farm will offer inspiration and guidance at a daytime workshop from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. where both beginners and experienced wreath makers can create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. Participants will learn basic wreath making techniques, the differences in the various boughs, and how to embellish with natural accents from this plantswoman and floral artist.

In addition, Exchange Place volunteers will lead a Make and Take Wreath Making Evening on **Tuesday, November 27**, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm, designed for those who have taken our workshops in the past and wish minimal assistance as they quickly commence with wreath making.

All materials - a variety of fragrant greenery, cones, dried flowers, etc. along with wreath form and wire - will be provided. Participants should bring hand pruners and any extra materials or special decorations you may wish to add.

The cost is \$30 (\$25 for SAPS members and Exchange Place volunteers) and includes all materials and a light meal of soup, bread, and dessert. 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 24.** Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Proceeds from the workshops go to Exchange Place's restoration and education efforts. For more information call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail injmoore@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 1**, 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. <http://exchangeplace.info>

Master Gardeners: Report your hours each month!!

“Featured Project”

Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital

The hospital gardeners have just finished the fall planting season, adding over 1000 pansies to the grounds of the Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital. Our goal is to create therapeutic gardens for the enjoyment of patients, visitors and staff.



We will soon transition to our winter schedule which includes weekly watering for a collection of tropical plants in several lobby areas at JCMC. We will occasionally have outdoor work sessions on warmer winter days.



Spring will bring a flurry of activity as we transition back to warm season annuals.



All of our gardeners have been through the Master Gardener training and are official hospital volunteers. Contact Barbara Voigt if you would like to visit on a workday, or to learn more about this community service project. 423-467-2013 or voigt7b@comcast.net New gardeners are invited to join us. It's a great opportunity to use your gardening skills to create peaceful, soothing gardens for the benefit of the community.



Welcome to the Premier Facility

*A multi-use agricultural center
now open in Sullivan County*

140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN

Quick Facts:

- Situated on 10-acres of land
- Conveniently located near Tri-Cities Airport
- 300 seating capacity in the conference area
- State-of-the-art Audio and Visual Equipment
- 30,000 square-feet of arena space *(coming soon)*
- Commercial Kitchen *(opening soon)*

"Agriculture is deeply embedded in our history and is a vital sector of our economy. It is a way of life critical to who we are and it must be protected. I am deeply honored to be associated with this outstanding and important facility and could not be more excited for the future of agriculture in Northeast Tennessee."

- former Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey



- The Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center facilitates fundamental programs that provide opportunities to educate and inspire the advancement of agriculture within the region through a variety of outreach activities.
- It is the vision of the Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center to promote awareness in this community and excellence in the diverse agricultural economy of Northeast Tennessee.

Contact Us

to reserve the facility
for your next event

Mike Blevins - 423.963.0220
Dwight King - 423.335.0850
Chris Ramsey - 423.646.9043



Built for Agriculture. Built for the Community.

ramseyagcenter.com

Caring for Your Holiday Poinsettia and Getting it to Bloom Again Next Year



Poinsettia plants (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) remain one of the most popular holiday flowers. The familiar red flowers have been joined by even flashier colors. (Actually, what we think of as poinsettia flowers are not really flowers at all. They are modified leaves called bracts. The bright bracts are designed to attract insects to the tiny yellow flowers in their centers.) Hybridizers have expanded the range of colors from the familiar red to pastel yellow and vibrant bi-colors.

Because poinsettias have been forced into bloom, they need some extra care, to keep them in bloom throughout the holidays. Besides their general care, one of the most common questions about poinsettias after Christmas is "How can I care for my poinsettia so that it will bloom again next Christmas?" While this can be done, it's a very fussy, exacting process and since the plants are not that expensive, you might just choose to start fresh next year.

For those of you who are undaunted, the process for saving your poinsettia and getting it to rebloom begins with the care you give it the first season.

When You First Bring Your Poinsettia Home

Light: Place it near a sunny window. South, east or west facing windows are preferable to a north facing window. Poinsettias are tropicals and will appreciate as much direct sunlight as you can provide.

Heat: To keep the poinsettia in bloom as long as possible, maintain a temperature of 65 - 75 degrees F. during the day. Dropping the temperature to about 60 degrees F. at night will not hurt the plant. However, cold drafts or allowing the leaves to touch a cold window can injure the leaves and cause premature leaf drop. If you've ever seen a leggy poinsettia in bloom, with only a couple of sad looking leaves hanging on, it was probably exposed to temperatures that were too cool or to extreme shifts in temperature.

Water: Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but do not let the plant sit in water. Wilting is another common cause of leaf drop. A wilted plant can be revived and salvaged, but it will take another season to improve its appearance.

Humidity: Lack of humidity during dry seasons, in particular winter, is an ongoing houseplant problem. If your home tends to be dry and your poinsettia is in direct light, you will find yourself watering frequently, possibly every day.

After Christmas Care

January - March: Keep watering the poinsettia whenever the surface is dry.

April: Starting April 1st, gradually decrease water, allowing the soil to get dry between waterings. Be careful to ensure the stem does not begin to shrivel. This is a sign the plant is too stressed and is dying. In a week or two, when the plant has acclimated to this drying process, move it to a cool spot, like the basement or a heated garage. You want to keep it at about 60 degrees F.

May: In mid-May, cut the stems back to about 4 inches and repot in a slightly larger container, with new potting soil. Water it well. Place the newly potted plant back into the brightest window you have and once again keep it at a temperature of 65 - 75 degrees F. Continue watering whenever the surface of the soil feels dry. Watch for new growth. Once new growth appears, begin fertilizing every two weeks. Follow fertilizer label recommendations.

June: Move the poinsettia outside, pot and all. Keep it in a partially shaded location (plant will need some relief from the intense heat of late afternoon sun) and maintain your watering and fertilizing schedule.

July: In early July, pinch back each stem by about one inch. This is to encourage a stout, well branched plant. If left unpinched, the poinsettia will grow tall and spindly.

August: By mid-August, the stems should have branched and leafed out. Once again, pinch or cut the new stems, leaving 3-4 leaves on each shoot. Bring the plant back indoors and back into your brightest window. Continue watering and fertilizing.

September: Continue regular watering and fertilizing. Make sure the temperature stays above 65 degrees F.

October: Poinsettias are short-day plants, meaning their bud set is affected by the length of daylight. To re-bloom, poinsettias need about 10 weeks with 12 hours or less of sunlight per day. You will have to artificially create these conditions and it's crucial that you be diligent.

Beginning October 1st, keep your plant in complete darkness from 5 pm to 8 am. Any exposure to light will delay blooming. Use an opaque box or material to block out light. Many people place their plants in a closet, but if light gets in through the cracks or if you open and use the closet, it will affect the bud set.

Move the plant back to the sunny window during the daytime and continue watering and fertilizing.

November: Around the last week of November, you can stop the darkness treatment and allow the plant to remain in the window. You should see flower buds at this point

December: - Stop fertilizing about December 15th. Keep watering and treat your plant the way you did when you first brought it home in bloom. (See instructions, above.) If all has gone well, it should be back in bloom and ready to begin the process all over again.

Getting a poinsettia to re-bloom is not an easy process, so don't be disheartened if you don't have success your first try.

The Bottom Line on Poinsettia's Being Poisonous

For years poinsettias have had the bad reputation of being poisonous. They certainly are not meant to be eaten by humans, pets, or livestock and ingesting poinsettias would probably cause some stomach upset, as would eating most any houseplant. However poinsettias have undergone extensive testing and there is no evidence that they are toxic or unsafe to have in the house. They are also safe to put into the compost.

You Should Still Use Caution when Handling Poinsettias

A more likely problem to watch out for is contact dermatitis. *Euphorbias*, the plant family that includes poinsettias, exude a milky sap when broken. Think of milkweed, another common Euphorbia. Many people are sensitive to this sap, which can cause an itchy rash. Be especially careful not to rub your eyes after touching the plants. To be safe, wash your hands after handling a poinsettia plant and try to avoid pinching or pruning them with your bare hands.

They're beautiful, they're safe, and they say Christmas. The only remaining question is whether to save them from year to year.

- Published by www.thespruce.com

- Written by Marie Iannotti; Updated 6/19/2018



Projects List

Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park Kingsport
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 geduncan@charter.net

Branch House Family Center Blountville
Margaret Woolery margaret.woolery@gmail.com
Cynthia Johnson cjohnson2785@gmail.com

Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 nancyshilling@gmail.com

Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden
Marcia Vandermause mmvdvm@charter.net
Christine Barger chscgarden@yahoo.com

Exchange Place Living History Farm Kingsport
Earl Hockin-Vegetable Garden ehockin@yahoo.com
Dave Gostomski-Lawns, Trees, etc. e3fan98@yahoo.com

Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 dave_carla@chartertn.net

Johnson City Medical Center Woodridge Hospital Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net
Quillen Rehabilitation
Carol Collins 423-639-0341 ccollins47@comcast.net

Johnson City Public Library "What's the Buzz" Pollinator Pathway
Selena Harmon 423-328-3016 selenaharmon1@gmail.com

Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees Blountville
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

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Elizabethton
Project Leader: Open

The Crumley House Therapeutic Garden Limestone
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 pennyrutledge2@aol.com

Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
Vern Maddux vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com
Betts Leach BettsL@aol.com

NETMGA Yearly Projects List:

Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 pennyrutledge2@aol.com

Kingsport MeadowView Home Show and Farm Show
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com

Kingsport Pepper Festival
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com

Kingsport Tomato Festival
Dennis Marshall 423-288-3675 dmarshall@chartertn.net

2019 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year (\$30.00 for a couple) and are due by December 31, 2018.

After February 1, 2019, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed; however, you can pay your dues at the Annual Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the reduced rate.

Please complete the membership form, make note of any changes to your contact information and include the form with your dues.

Make your check payable to **NETMGA** and mail to: Sally Richard, 137 Bentwood Lane, Gray, TN 37615

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Class Year _____

Please check if you **cannot** receive the newsletter via e-mail _____

Please remember to report your volunteer and CEU hours and verify you have met your certification requirements. <https://temg.tennessee.edu/>



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NOVEMBER 2018 Calendar of Events

NOV 3 Spring Blooming Bulbs

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Tips for planting Tulips, Daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com

NOV 5 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:00pm; Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

NOV 8 Herb Saplings Meeting

7:00pm. Chef Nathan Brand, "The Early Spices of Appalachia." Exchange Place in Kingsport.

NOV 9 Wildlife in the Garden Class at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville

10:00am – 12:00pm. Whether your landscape supports birds, butterflies, chipmunks or frogs, gardening for nature is a way to create resilient landscapes that support a diversity of wildlife. The instructor will share experiences using native plants to create functional ecological gardens and will recommend excellent native species to use. Cost: \$34 Member/ \$39 Non-member.

Register: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA18-Wildlife-in-the-Garden>

NOV 10 Indoor Houseplants

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Emphasis on easy care, clean air, baby & pet safe houseplants. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com

NOV 10 Creative Decoration for the Holidays

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. Information/Registration: www.egardenplace.com

NOV 11 Succulent Houseplant Success at UT Gardens, Knoxville

2:00 – 4:00pm. Join local author and garden expert John Tullock as we explore the wonderful world of succulents. We will cover choosing plants, potting, growing outdoors, propagation, and designing with succulents. Participants will receive a collection of beautiful succulent plants to take home. Cost: Member-\$30/Nonmember-\$40. Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3041933>

NOV 12 Autumn Tree Keys at Warriors' Path State Park

4:00-5:30pm. Learn autumn trees by their leaves, bark, buds, and more. Besides gaining tree knowledge, each participant will take home a pamphlet-key to our local trees. Information: <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=autumn-tree-key>

NOV 15 SAPS Meeting: Kirk R. Brown will present "John Bartram, the King's Gardener"

7:00pm. Brown Hall Auditorium on the ETSU Campus, Johnson City.

Contact: 423-348-6572 or email: sapsinfo@embarqmail.com

NOV 16 Fall Table Centerpiece Workshop at UT Gardens, Knoxville

5:30 – 7:30pm. Decorate your holiday table with the beautiful bounty of nature. Using colorful foliage, interesting succulents, seedpods, grasses, moss and other found objects we will demonstrate a variety of techniques to brighten your home for the season. Participants will take home an ornamental pumpkin centerpiece. Cost: Member-\$30/Nonmember-\$40. Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3096286>

NOV 17 Terrariums: Kid's Workshop

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Bring the kids & create a fun, child-themed terrarium with dinosaurs, fairies, & animals. (Workshop fee will apply; details on Evergreen website.) Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com

NOV 17 Creating Festive Artificial Wreaths

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. \$30 activity fee. Information/Registration: www.egardenplace.com

NOV 24 Creating Festive Live Wreaths

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. \$30 activity fee. Information/Registration: www.egardenplace.com

NOV 27 Wreath Making Workshop at Exchange Place

5:30 - 8:30 pm. Designed for those who have taken our workshops in the past and wish minimal assistance. Cost is \$30 (\$25 for SAPS members and Exchange Place volunteers). Registration is limited. Information call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail injmoore@embarqmail.com.

NOV 28 Wreath Making Workshop at Exchange Place

10:00am -2:30 pm. Both beginners and experienced wreath makers can create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. Cost is \$30 (\$25 for SAPS members and Exchange Place volunteers). Registration is limited. Information call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail injmoore@embarqmail.com.

DECEMBER 2018 Calendar of Events

DEC 1 Christmas Greenery Workshop

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Create your seasonal holiday greenery accents. (Workshop fee will apply; details on Evergreen website.)
Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or www.evergreenofjc.com

DEC 1 Creating Porch Pots with Greenery

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. \$30 activity fee. Information/
Registration: www.egardenplace.com

DEC 1 Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place

10:00am – 4:00pm. Admission is free. For more information, call 423-288-6071. <http://exchangeplace.info>

DEC 2 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.

DEC 8 Creating a Holiday Centerpiece

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. \$30 activity fee. Information/
Registration: www.egardenplace.com

DEC 10 NETMGA Membership Dinner Meeting.

6:00pm-Meet & Greet; 6:30pm-Dinner begins. Location: Ron Ramsey Ag Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville

DEC 15 Holiday Fairy Garden Make & Take

10:00am. Evergreen School of Gardening at Colonial Heights. \$30 activity fee. Information/
Registration: www.egardenplace.com

