

In a Blink...Holidays Are Coming!!

It's month eleven of 2019! Time seems to fly faster every year. Thanksgiving and Christmas will be here before you know it.

And...there are still opportunities to get volunteer hours and CEUs for 2019 if you need them. See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue for all of the above!



NETMGA Board Meeting

Monday, **November 4**, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN.

NETMGA General Membership Meeting

The MG general meeting will be Monday, **December 9**, and will be a catered Christmas Dinner at the Ron Ramsey Agriculture Center. Doors will open at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:30. The menu consists of:

- Bacon wrapped fillet of beef**
- Roasted potatoes**
- Green beans**
- Rolls**
- Tea and water**
- Assortment of homemade desserts**

The cost of the catered meal will be \$15 per person and \$15 for any guests. RSVP and send your payment to Pat Mazurkiewicz, 232 Cherry St. Blountville, Tn. 37617. Deadline to respond and payment due by Dec.1.

TEMG State Conference in 2020 hosted by NETMGA

Save these dates: June 11th-13th

Come and enjoy three fabulous days of activities, sessions, tours, workshops, food, and fellowship with other MGs and share the best of East Tennessee with our MG colleagues from across the state.

Thursday, June 11th: Pre-conference afternoon session on Herbs or fishing experience followed by a late afternoon visit to Bays Mountain, including dinner.

Friday, June 12th: Traditional conference format at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center with great topics by renowned speakers, concluding with a delicious farm to fork dinner.

Saturday, June 13th: In depth horticultural topics and tours to Rocky Mount, Steele Creek Park or a local farm, ending with a tour of Roan Mountain during our peak Rhododendron season.

Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT
(423) 646-9043 cwramsey@utk.edu



Dear Master Gardeners,

Hope 2019 has been a rewarding year for you with your MG volunteering endeavors. Just wanted to take this opportunity to share some MG details. Beginning with 2020, all MGs must be a member of NETMGA. This will align our local MG group with other MG groups across Tennessee. NETMGA plays an important role in keeping our group and volunteer opportunities focused. You'll see information about membership in the next newsletter and at our Christmas Dinner on Monday, Dec 9.

Also, I would like to ask any MG that gets injured while at a MG project, to report the injury to the project leader. This will allow us make our MG projects as safe as possible. Also, please remember to get your volunteer hours entered by December 31. We will compile volunteer hour information and recognize our volunteers at the February membership meeting. Hope you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday. Hope to see you at the Christmas dinner. Thank you for your volunteer efforts and commitment to the UT Extension Master Gardener Program.

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Facebook Page

Fellow UT Extension Master Gardeners:

Our very kind member Liz Blakely is managing the Northeast TN Master Gardener Facebook page. The purpose of this page is to share information and announcements about our programs and events. If you use Facebook please "Like" the page so you will be notified of everything going on, as well as other announcements from Master Gardeners throughout the State, and also travel opportunities.



Please support Liz and the Facebook page. She does a wonderful job and we appreciate all her effort. Hope you take advantage of this information.

Thank you,
Jane Mullins

Put These on Your Calendar

Herb Saplings Meeting

November 7, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Topic: "Herbs and Spices in Baking" with Maren Close, the owner and baker of Lazy Lady Baking Co., a small batch artisan bakeshop based in Johnson City. Maren attended AB Tech in Asheville and spent several years baking in San Francisco. She moved back to Johnson City to start Lazy Lady. She uses fresh and dried herbs and spices to create unique flavor combinations for her farmers market booth and local coffee shops. Please bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

Note: There is no December or January Herb Saplings meeting.

Fall Day of Caring at Warriors' Path State Park

Help is needed for the Fall Day of Caring at Warriors' Path State Park, Saturday, **November 9** starting at 8:30am. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Gwyn Duncan (geduncan@charter.net or 423.239.0460).

SAPS November Program - The New Perennial Movement & Why It Matters



Horticulturist Paul Westervelt, Annual & Perennial Production Manager at Saunders Brothers Nursery, will speak on "The New Perennial Movement & Why It Matters" on Thursday, **November 21**, at 7 pm at the Kingsport Higher Education Center, 300 West Market Street, Kingsport TN. While much of the nursery industry is focused on the latest and greatest, compact, spring blooming whatever, there's a counter movement afoot. Paul will discuss this new perennial movement that embraces a more natural look, a different pallet of plants (and scads of them on tight centers) all while creating beneficial habitat and food for pollinators.

Paul Westervelt is a professional plant geek who has run the annual and perennial program for Saunders Brothers Nursery in Piney River, Virginia since 2004, where he grows over 800 varieties across 13 different programs. His work is plants, his hobbies are plants, his vacations are plants, his dreams are plants – he's living the plant geek dream.

Paul grew up in Winchester, VA across from a multi-acre Oehme van Sweden garden. He earned his B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from Virginia Tech (2001 and 2003 respectively). In 2009 he was



awarded the "Young Professional of the Year" by the Perennial Plant Association. He was recognized in the 2013 Class of 40 Under 40 for Greenhouse Product News, which each year recognizes 40 young industry professionals who are helping to determine the future of the horticulture industry. Paul has written for various industry magazines and is a popular speaker at national and regional events for gardeners as well as nursery professionals.

Paul lives and gardens with his wife and two children (propagules) on their farm in central VA. Free time not spent gardening is spent visiting gardens and landscapes around the country and abroad.

Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call 423-817-5473 or e-mail sapsinfo@embarqmail.com

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 Tuesday, **December 3**, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, **December 4**, from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., 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. 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 they may wish to add.

The cost is \$35 (\$30 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 30. 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 or e-mail ijnjmoore@embargo.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 7**, from 10 am - 4:00 pm. Fresh greenery and trees, hand-crafted 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 or <http://www.exchangeplace.info>

Monthly Gardening Tasks – November & December

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/utg/Pages/monthlytasks.aspx>,

“Featured Project”

Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital

Master gardeners continue to plant and maintain healing gardens at Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital.



New this year, we participated in the Johnson City “What’s the Buzz” initiative to promote pollinator gardens throughout the area. Sunflowers at the entry to the JCMC parking lot brought smiles to the faces of many visitors.



Our zinnia garden, planted beside a handicap ramp at the children’s hospital, was a favorite. Many people stopped to enjoy the colorful garden and it’s numerous active pollinators.



We usually work on Friday mornings, maintaining a wide variety of indoor and outdoor plants. It is an enjoyable opportunity to learn from each other, share ideas, and create peaceful healing gardens.



We would be pleased to have more people join the team. All of our gardeners have taken the Master Gardener classes and are official hospital volunteers. Contact Barbara Voigt if you would like to learn more about this community service project: 423 467 2013 or voigt7b@comcast.net



How to Care for Christmas Cactus for Next Holiday Season Blooming



These colorful cacti have blooming periods corresponding to the holidays, hence their common name. They're pretty **stunning**, too: The hanging branches, composed of glossy green, flat segments, can reach up to 36 inches long; while the flowers appear from stem tips and measure up to 3 inches long with several tiers of petals. Each **bloom** lasts for several days, and the entire blooming period spans several weeks.

But certain factors can help, or hinder, your Christmas cactus's potential. Here's how to ensure this festive plant keeps brightening up your home year after year.

6 Key Factors for Optimal Growth

Soil: Make sure you're using a quality soil rich in humus and other nutrients.

Temperature: During the day, the temperature should be 65 to 70 degrees; at night, 55 to 65 degrees. Buds will drop more quickly with sudden changes in temperature or drafts.

Watering: Keep the soil evenly moist, and mist frequently. Buds will also drop when soil is allowed to dry out.

Light: Allow for moderate light, partial shade, and some direct sun in winter from eastern exposure.

Fertilization: Once flower buds form, apply a high-potassium fertilizer (preferably an organic fertilizer) every 2 weeks.

Transplantation: Repot your cactus each year after flowering.

Continuing Plant Care

Keep plants cool (50 degrees) following their **blooming** period. Keep soil barely moist and withhold fertilizer. When new growth appears use the following strategy to encourage blooming: Keep the plants between 55 to 65 degrees, alternating 10 hours of light and 14 hours of total darkness for 4 to 6 weeks after new growth appears. When buds appear, introduce to warmer temperature and begin regular culture (described above). Plants should bloom in 6 weeks.

- The Editors of *Organic Life*

NOVEMBER 2019 Calendar of Events

NOV 4 NETMGA Board Meeting

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

NOV 6 Botanical Latin for Gardeners at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville

10:00am – 12:00pm. Botanical Latin can help in understanding the origin of a plant or important characteristics, such as its form, color, shape or size; this class will explore the reasons to use Latin for plant names and how to use botanical Latin to improve gardening efforts. Cost: \$34 Member/\$39 Non-member. Register:

<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA19-Botanical-Latin-for-Gardeners>

NOV 7 Herb Saplings Meeting

7:00pm. Topic: "Herbs and Spices in Baking" with Maren Close, the owner and baker of Lazy Lady Baking Co. Exchange Place in Kingsport.

NOV 9 Fall Day of Caring at Warriors' Path State Park

8:30am. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. RSVP to Gwyn Duncan (geduncan@charter.net or 423.239.0460).

NOV 9 Growing Herbs Indoors/Uses for Thanksgiving Meals

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or <https://evergreenofjc.com/event/growing-herbs-indoors-uses-for-thanksgiving-meals/>

NOV 16 Kid's Terrarium Workshop

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Brings the kid's and create a fun child themed terrarium with dinosaurs, fairies, & animals. \$15 workshop, includes terrarium, rock, soil, moss, & figurines. Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or <https://evergreenofjc.com/event/terrarium-kids-workshop/>

NOV 16 Creative Gardening for the Holidays – Part 1

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

NOV 21 "The New Perennial Movement & Why It Matters" – SAPS Program

7:00pm; Kingsport Higher Education Center, 300 West Market Street, Kingsport TN. Information: 423-817-5473 or e-mail sapsinfo@embarqmail.com.

NOV 21 Cover Crops for Home Gardeners at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville

10:00am – 12:00pm. Botanical Latin can help in understanding the origin of a plant or important characteristics, such as its form, color, shape or size; this class will explore the reasons to use Latin for plant names and how to use botanical Latin to improve gardening efforts. Cost: \$34 Member/\$39 Non-member. Register:

<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA19-Cover-Crops-for-Home-Gardeners>

NOVEMBER 2019 Calendar of Events - continued

NOV 23 Creative Gardening for the Holidays – Part 2

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

NOV 23 Fruit Tree Pruning at the Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum

10:00am – 12:00pm. Pruning is an essential part of keeping trees happy, healthy, and productive. Come learn the art and science of pruning fruit trees, led by KBGA's Director of Horticulture, Amanda Spangler. Cost: \$15 Member/\$20 Non-member. Register: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/fruit-tree/>

NOV 30 Christmas Greenery Workshop

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Create your own seasonal holiday greenery accents. (No fee for this workshop - attendees will receive 20% off all supplies used.) Registration requested: (423) 282-3431 or <https://evergreenofjc.com/event/christmas-greenery-workshop-3/>

NOV 30 Creating Festive Wreaths

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



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

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



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

DECEMBER 2019 Calendar of Events

DEC 1 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.

DEC 3 & 4 Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place

5:30 - 8:30pm (Tues.) & 10:00am – 2:00pm (Wed.); Cost: \$35. Limited to 15 participants, registration deadline: Nov. 30. Information: 423-348-6572 or injmoore@embarqmail.com

DEC 7 Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm

10:00am – 4:00pm. Admission is free. Information: call 423-288-6071 or <http://www.exchangeplace.info>

DEC 7 Holiday Wreath Making at UT Gardens, Knoxville

1:00 – 3:00pm. Kick off your winter festivities by making your own gorgeous wreath using freshly harvested greenery. Cost: Member-\$30/Nonmember-\$40. Information & Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3526787>

DEC 7 Creating Porch Pots with Greenery

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

DEC 9 NETMGA Membership Meeting & Christmas Dinner

Doors open at 5:30pm, dinner begins at 6:30pm. Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

DEC 14 Creating KoKodama Balls Make & Take

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

DEC 21 Holiday Fairy Gardens Make & Take

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

