

Happy New Year!!

It's 2020! Time to start planning your gardens. Seed catalogs are arriving so we'll have plenty to look over during the winter months. And growing season will be here before you know it!

Why not get a jump on volunteer hours and CEUs for 2020? There are plenty of opportunities in the next few months. See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



Congratulations and Welcome to NETMGA Master Gardener Class of 2019



NETMGA Board Meeting

Monday, **January 6, 2020** at 6:00 p.m. in the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane Blountville, TN.

NETMGA Annual Recognition Dinner

The NETMGA Annual Recognition Dinner will be held on Monday, **February 3, 2020** in The Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. Details will be announced soon!

2020 Membership Reminder

Have you paid your 2020 Membership? If not, please complete the form below and send it with your payment to Mary Cain.

2020 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year (\$30.00 for a couple) and are due by December 31, 2019.

After February 3, 2020, 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 3, 2020 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: Mary Cain
200 Willow Creek Pvt Dr
Blountville, TN 37617

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

County _____ Phone _____

E-mail address _____ Class Year _____

I have met my required hours for project volunteer work Yes _____ No _____

I have met my required hours for continuing education Yes _____ No _____

I have entered my hours into the TEMG web site Yes _____ No _____

<https://temg.tennessee.edu/>

I have completed the TN Volunteer Form (every 2 years) Yes _____ No _____

June 11th-13th – SAVE the Dates

NETMGA is hosting the 2020 TEMG State Conference

Thursday June 11th:

- Pre-conference afternoon workshops on Growing and Using Herbs in Appalachia.
- Optional: Pre-conference fishing activity – hosted by Trout Unlimited at the South Holston Dam.
- Late afternoon visit to Bays Mountain, Nature Center, Barge Ride, Planetarium, Wolf Show and dinner.

Friday, June 12:

- Traditional conference format at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center with great topics such as beekeeping, heirloom fruits and vegetables, woodland crops, gardening throughout the year, ornamental crops, trees, turf, herbs, and more presented by renowned speakers.
- Concluding with a fabulous farm to fork dinner featuring local fare and great music from the ETSU student bluegrass band.

Saturday, June 13:

- Attendees will choose an in-depth horticultural topic for a morning of teaching and/or tours to a local farm, Rocky Mount, Kingsport gardens, or Steele Creek Park.
- Afternoon tour of Roan Mountain to see the peak of rhododendron season in the mountains.

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 across the state.

Chris's Corner

Jan/Feb 2020

Happy New Year! It's exciting to think about the year to come with the impact of our area projects and the 2020 State Master Gardener Conference. Hopefully, you already have a project. Gardening season will be here soon! If you don't have a project, there should be a project in your community or you could get involved with the 2020 state conference. **THANK YOU** for your contribution to the impact across our region. We have one of the strongest Master Gardener programs in Tennessee thanks to each Master Gardener in our area.

Beginning this year, every Master Gardener must be a member of the local Master Gardener group, the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association. This will align our local Master Gardeners with other Master Gardeners across the state. The NETMGA is a very important part of keeping our Master Gardener program strong in Northeast Tennessee.

Put These on Your Calendar

January 2020 SAPS Program Bird Friendly Gardening

Tom Tribble, Past President of Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society in western North Carolina will present Bird Friendly Gardening at 7 pm on Thursday, **January 16**, at Kingsport Higher Education Center, 300 West Market Street, Kingsport TN. Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail sapsinfo@embarqmail.com.



For over 100 years, Audubon has focused on making the world a better place for birds - Protect Birds and You Protect the Earth. Today birds face serious threats from habitat loss and climate change. With increased development and population growth, there are fewer undeveloped areas for our migratory and resident birds to find food, shelter and a place to raise their babies. The single, easy action that individuals can take to help birds is to make their own yard more bird-friendly by planting native plants. Learn about the native plants and actions you can take to make your yard a haven for birds.

An avid birder and Audubon member since 1975, Tom Tribble served six years as President and is now Immediate Past President of Elisha Mitchell Audubon Society, which covers parts of six counties in western NC. Over the years Tom has spent much time facilitating bird walks for groups ranging from local Boy Scouts to faith groups and garden clubs. Through projects and numerous presentations he has engaged churches, schools, civic groups and local business on the impact of climate change on birds and the importance of planting bird friendly natives. He drives outreach to local plant nurseries through Audubon NC's Bird-Friendly Native Plants program, and he leads a regional volunteer effort to document the responses of nuthatches to climate change. In recognition of his exceptional work as an Audubon volunteer Tom was honored with National Audubon Society's 2017 Atlantic Flyway William Dutcher Award and Audubon North Carolina's 2018 "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

Tom worked for 30 years at the NC Center for Geographic Information & Analysis, the State's Geographic Information System, retiring in 2013. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a Master's degree from Duke University.

February Herb Saplings Meeting

February 6; 7 pm at Exchange Place. For more info: jinmoore@embarqmail.com

February 2020 SAPS Program

“Conifers for Appalachian Gardens”

Horticulturist and garden writer Hugh Conlon will speak on “Conifers for Appalachian Gardens” on Thursday, **February 20**, at 7 p.m. at BrightRidge Power Company, (formerly Johnson City Power Board), 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), Johnson City. Conifers are a great landscape option in Southern gardens. Join us to learn which conifers perform best in our Northeast Tennessee region.

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 garden website: www.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.

“Featured Project” will return in March/April Edition

Feed the birds!



8 Plants to Help Naturally Deter Garden Slugs

Are you troubled with slugs in your garden? As you peruse your plant and seed catalogs here are a few plants to consider. Some are also deer resistant!



FOXGLOVE

These tall, elegant plants are not just great at attracting bees – they contain a large amount of nerve toxins which are repellant to slugs. They are also good at breaking up a border which may have become the perfect habitat for slugs – moist, low and shady. Foxgloves bring light, height and structure.



ASTRANTIA

These delicate flowers may look sweet and innocent but their strong scent is repellant for slugs.



EUPHORBIAS

Euphorbias contain a latex-filled tissue which is repellant to many pests.



JAPANESE ANEMONES

Similarly, Japanese anemones contain the same unpalatable tissue and provide a zap of color to any border.



DAYLILY HEMEROCALLIS

The striking flowers on these beautiful blooms are not our focus here, it's the furry stem that makes it hard for slugs to grip.



SUCCULENTS

Succulents form a similar texture barrier with their waxiness and, with some varieties, spikiness. They are also very low-maintenance and add colorful structure.



SALVIAS

Slugs detest the smell of this highly aromatic herb.



FENNEL

The bitter scent of fennel isn't attractive to them, either.

- *The House Beautiful*

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 mmvdm@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 howlathemoon1775@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 Site Elizabethton
Carol Ludiker 423-707-0026 jaxlud26@gmail.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 howlathemoon1775@gmail.com

Kingsport Pepper Festival
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathemoon1775@gmail.com

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



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

JANUARY 2020 Calendar of Events

- JAN 6 NETMGA Board Meeting
6:00pm; at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.
- JAN 11 Basic Chicken Care with Emily Katt
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- JAN 11-12 Appalachian Farm Expo 2020 at Bristol Motor Speedway
<http://www.appalachianfarmexpo.com/>
- JAN 16 SAPS Meeting – Presented by Tom Tribble
7:00pm, “Bird Friendly Gardening” at 7 p.m. at Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport. Information phone 423-348-6572, email sapsinfo@embarqmail.com.
- JAN 18 Winter Garden Seminar at Warriors' Path State Park, Kingsport
10:00am – 12:00pm. “Gardening for the Birds” with World-class Ornithologist Fred J. Alsop III, Ph.D. Cost: \$5. Information and registration: 423-239-8531 or
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=31st-annual-winter-garden-seminar-WPSP-2020>
- JAN 18 Herbs with Joy Moore
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- JAN 25 Veggies 101 with Earl Hockin
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.

FEBRUARY 2020 Calendar of Events

- FEB 1 Gardening Seminar Series: Raised Bed Gardening with Ben Hunter
9 am—noon. Sycamore Shoals State Park Visitors Center. Free. 423-543-5808 for more info.
- FEB 1 Jump Start Seed Swap and Pollinator Day
9:00am – 12:00pm. Memorial Park Community Building, 510 Bert St, Johnson City, TN.
Information: 423-283-5821
- FEB 1 Small Fruit Production with Steve & Tiffany Stanley
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 2 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.
- FEB 3 NETMGA Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet
Save the date...details will be announced. Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.
- FEB 6 Herb Saplings Meeting
7:00pm; Exchange Place in Kingsport. Information: jnimoore@embarqmail.com
- FEB 8 Winter Naturalists' Rally 2020 at Roan Mountain State Park Conference Ctr
Information: https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/roan-mountain/#/?event=winter-naturalists-2020 or Friends of Roan Mountain: 423-772-3500, www.friendsfroanmtn.org
- FEB 8 Raised Beds with Martin Litz
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 20 SAPS Meeting-Presented by Hugh Conlon
7:00pm. "Conifers for Appalachian Gardens" at BrightRidge Power Company (Johnson City Power Board), 2600 Boones Creek Road (2nd entrance), Johnson City. Information phone 423-348-6572 or email sapsinfo@embarqmail.com
- FEB 22 Honey Bees with Ann Moore
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 29 Adopt a Tree at Warriors' Path State Park
10:00am – 12:00pm. You can make a big difference for our future! Help us bring "re-leaf" to Northeast Tennessee by planting tomorrow's forests. For every tree seedling you plant, you will also get one to take home, to plant in your own neighborhood. Come early because supplies of trees are limited! Contact: 423-239-6786; Email: marty.silver@tn.gov
- FEB 29 Attracting Pollinators with Charlene Thomas
10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.

