



Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 9, Issue 2 Mar / Apr 2012

Official Publication

Congratulations to the following NETMGA members who obtained 100+ hours in 2011 and received a Gold Leaf Club pin.

Blenda Anderson, Christine Barger, J. P. Barrett, Johnda Burdette, Ray Chandler, Cathy Ciolac, Carol Collins, Don Davis, David Doan II, Mary Forbes, Nina Hedrick, Doug Hilton, Ben Hunter, Jan Jones, Tom Lane, Dennis Marshall, Lawrence Maston, Pat Mazurkiewicz, Reg Mitchell, Ann Moore, Jane Mullins, Judy Penley, Philip Ramey, RuthAnn Ranker, Sally Richard, Johnny Suthers, Marcia Vandermause, Barbara Voigt, Carl Voigt, Delette Walker, Nancy Walker, Stanley Wieden-
haupt

All Master Gardeners have an opportunity for the Gold Leaf Club for 2012. A different leaf will be awarded for those MG's submitting over 100 hours for 2012.

NETMGA Membership Meeting Programs

- April 2 Bill Hunt from Johnson City Power Board will discuss pruning
6:00 p.m. meet and greet, bring a snack to share; 6:30 p.m. program
Door prizes. Gray Fairgrounds Building 1. Please wear name tags.
- June 4 Plant Swap, refreshments provided.
6 p.m. Blountville Library, Blountville Boulevard just down from the Extension Office.
Please wear name tags.
- August 6 Second Annual Flower and Framed Photo Show. Prizes for cut arrangements and potted plants, and
framed pictures. Only one entry per person per category.
6 p.m. meet and greet, bring a snack to share. 6:30 p.m. program
Door prizes. Gray Fairgrounds Building 1. Please wear name tags.

Welcome to the new Project Leader for the Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area in Carter County, Vikki Bradach, a 2011 Class graduate. We are very fortunate to have the infusion of Vikki's energy and many project talents! You can contact her at 423-474-0219 vbradach@gmail.com

Erica Glasener's show *A Gardener's Diary* is now being shown on www.hulu.com. Hulu is free online television. They will offer 5 episodes at a time and then when they take one away, they will replace it with another. The link is <http://hulu.com/a-gardeners-diary>. Erica's web site is www.ericaglasner.com.

Check out Jeanne Cope's new website: www.jeannecope.com. She says it's a work in progress and she needs folks to look it up, give her comments and/or suggestions. She would greatly appreciate your help. ■■■

Volunteer Opportunities

●**Day of Caring Work Day** at the Warriors Path State Park Playground on April 21, 9 a.m. - noon. We'll be planting, mulching and weeding. Bring your own hand tools.

●**East TN Nursery Association Auction** on Saturday, April 21 in Elizabethton. Volunteers needed for Friday, April 20 (setup) and for auction on Saturday, April 21. Call Chris Ramsey 279-2723 or Keith Hart 542-1818

●**Volunteering at Exchange Place:** Volunteers are needed to help care for the heritage vegetable garden and herb garden and to adopt other areas; to help with planning, organizing and staffing the Spring Garden Fair, Farm Fest, and Fall Folk Arts Festival; to develop ideas for children's activities; and to research heirloom varieties. Exchange Place is also in the midst of applying for arboretum status; lots of extra work will be done this Spring and then continue with maintenance and expansion. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these projects, please contact Exchange Place at 288-6071.

●**Exchange Place is scheduling Garden Work Days each Monday** beginning on April 2 and continuing through the season. Come anytime between 10 am to 4 p.m. and work as long as you like. Tools will be provided. Bring a bag lunch; drinks and cookies will be provided. For more information call Ron Russom at 343-9111.

●To volunteer to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth at **The 28th Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair** held Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 29, from 12 - 5 p.m., please call Joy Moore at 348-6572 or e-mail at jon-moore@embarqmail.com. Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up, hospitality and take-down/clean up and other aspects of organizing the Garden Fair. To volunteer, contact Phil Ramey, Spring Garden Fair chairman, at 288-4669 or e-mail pmramey2009@yahoo.com. ■■■

Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair

The 28th Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair will be held Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 29, from 12 - 5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, Tennessee. The oldest garden fair in the region, the event will feature thousands of plants for sale - perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs - with the emphasis on herbs, natives and heirloom plants (including a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes), along with garden related arts and crafts. The Fair is also an educational and family event that fills the grounds and buildings of the historic site, and gardening experts will lead "Talks and Walks" and area Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer home gardening questions throughout the weekend. Heritage breeds of animals and the spring activities on a mid-1800's farmstead will be featured as volunteers shear the sheep, spin and weave the wool, cook over the hearth, and shape iron over the forge. Children's activities abound as volunteers help children create garden crafts and learn gardening skills, and area 4-H groups show their animals. Ol' timey music and traditional foods add to the atmosphere.

The Baaa...ck Porch Sale will be filled with garden items, linens, pottery, furniture, doodads, gizmos, and thingamadoodles. If you have items to donate call Kay Ann: 288-2468 or Exchange Place: 288-6071 (no clothes or shoes please). Then come and shop for great bargains. Proceeds from the Baaa...ck Porch Sale help feed the animals.

The Fair strives to be as environmentally friendly as possible with recycling, composting, and re-using. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own plant carriers and to bring used nursery pots for recycling/reusing.

Admission is \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children. For more information, call 423-288-6071. ■■■

Andre Michaux Day March 31, 2012 at Tipton Hayes State Historic Site

7:30am: Early bird watch in our historic woods

10:30am: The legendary 18th century French botanist Andre Michaux spent almost eleven years exploring in America and was the first botanist to travel to Tennessee, where he visited Col. John Tipton twice. Michaux's base was a "lost" garden near Charleston, S.C. that was remarkable for the diversity of plants it contained. Michaux scholar Charlie Williams, who has visited this historic garden site as well as Michaux's other garden in New Jersey, and examined the records of these gardens, will offer an illustrated presentation on this intriguing slice of horticultural history.

11am: Walk to enjoy the wonders of spring flowers ■■■



Chris' Corner

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

March/ April 2012

NETMGA was very well represented at the 2012 Master Gardener Winter School. We enjoyed good presentations and much networking with MGs from across the state. Please consider attending this awesome event in February of 2013.

As we enter the 2012 gardening season, I would like to encourage you to get out there and be involved with a project. Please keep an informal record of your volunteer and continuing education hours. These hours can be entered on the website or turned in on the paper form periodically throughout the year. If you choose to use the paper form, these may be turned in to me

or to Angie Droke, the NETMGA Certification Officer.

There is a place on the website and on the paper report form to enter contacts. If you contribute to an educational meeting in some way, please enter the number of contacts for the meeting. If you forget to count or don't know the number of actual attendees, please enter your best estimate of the attendance. Knowing the number of actual contacts will be very helpful to our state office.

For 2011, we had 11,633 volunteer hours submitted from Master Gardeners in Northeast TN. The number of hours for all Tennessee Master Gardeners was 136,000 valued at 2.5 million dollars. Locally, we had approximately 1800 pounds. The total number of pounds of produce reported for the state was 20,000 pounds.

The total number of volunteer hours, pounds of produce reported, and even grant dollars received across the state is made possible each year by the information that you report to me each year. This information is submitted on the annual report to the State Master Gardener Coordinator. Thank you for efforts.

2012 NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Blenda Anderson
423-276-3028
blajaa5755@charter.net

TREASURER

Pat Mazurkiewicz
423-323-1644
robmazur@chartertn.net

WEBSITE

Carl Voigt
(423) 467-2013
voigt7@comcast.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Nancy Walker
423-378-3965
nancy_k_walker@msn.com

PROGRAMS

Gail Shavers
423-323-1817
cgs1955@gmail.com

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Angie Droke
423-578-8281
adroke@chartertn.net

SECRETARY

Kathy Waldo
(423) 913-2121
kathywaldo@embarqmail.com

PROJECTS

Johnny Suthers
423-323-2202
jchemie@aol.com



2012 NETMGA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

HOSPITALITY

Kathy & Larry Wagner
(423) 323-5446
kwagner@chartertn.net

NEWSLETTER

Sally Richard (Co-Editor)
(423) 341-6166
sdr37615@comcast.net

2011 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Dave Gostomski
(423) 212-0231
e3fan98@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Sally Richard
(423) 341-6166
sdr37615@comcast.net

Junella McClellan

(Co-Editor & Layout Design)
(423) 534-8097
j.mcclellan@hotmail.com

PUBLICITY

Teresa Tittle
(423) 967-3695
teresa5937@hotmail.com



March SAPS Program

Nancy Ross Hugo, author of *Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Secrets of Everyday Trees*, will speak on Thursday, March 15, at 7 pm in the auditorium of the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. in downtown Kingsport. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and open to the public.

Copies of *Seeing Trees* will be available for sale and signing. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

April SAPS Program

Carol Reese, UT Extension Ornamental Horticultural Specialist, will present "The Appeal of the Aberrant", on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. at the Kingsport Renaissance Center, 1200 E. Center Street, Kingsport. Since human beings love the new, the shiny, the colorful, and even the peculiar, Carol explains that there is an enormous market for plants that deviate from the norm, such as weeping or columnar form, or those with golden, bronze, or variegated foliage. In this talk Carol will feature the best of these, and show how to use them to elicit "wows" in your landscape.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail ijnmoore@embarqmail.com. ■■■

Green and Growing
Lunchtime Gardening Seminars
First 3 Thursdays in March
12 noon - 1 p.m.
Kingsport Public Library, Mead Auditorium



Free Admission!

March 1 - From English Cottage to Italian Gardens, Create the Space of Your Dreams with help from Kerrie Sluder, Agriculture/FFA instructor at Dobyns-Bennett High School and Kingsport Times-News gardening columnist.

March 8 - Hydrangea Cultivars - Roy Odom, who holds a B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture/Landscape and is a Kingsport Times-News gardening columnist, will offer information on the new hydrangea cultivars that have been released in recent years, as well as tips on their successful cultivation.

March 15 - Invasive Plants in our Gardens - Learn about non-native invasive plants and native plant alternatives with Dr. Kathleen Beine, family physician and researcher, consultant and advocate for healthier communities.

Presented by **Keep Kingsport Beautiful, Kingsport Public Library, Southern Appalachian Plant Society and Sullivan County Extension.**

For more info contact [\(423\) 392-8814](tel:4233928814) or rcleary@kingsportchamber.org. ■■■

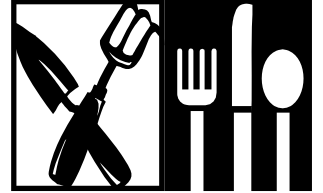
Jump Start Garden Event will be held on Friday, March 2nd, from 9:00 to 3:00 at the **Johnson City Seniors' Center** with vendors selling garden related items, speakers on garden oriented topics, and tons of door prizes! For more information, contact Connie Deegan cdeegan@jcseniorcentertn.com or [\(423\)-434-6224](tel:4234346224). ■■■

Seed Starting is the topic for the Saturday Seminar this Saturday, March 3, 2012, at **Ann's GreeneHaus**, 101 Pleasure Circle, Greeneville, Tennessee. The seminar is free and starts at 10:27 am. Subject matter will include timing, media, temperature, light and how to make a temporary greenhouse/germ chamber. The 45 minutes session will be followed by questions and answers.

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GARDEN BITES!

Our recipes in this edition come from Tom Lane, Class of 2007, and Doug and Carolyn Hilton. Tom shared a great salad recipe for a different twist on sweet potatoes. Doug and Carolyn have given us two wonderful light recipes that are full of that needed fiber. Please try them!!!! Also, please take a minute to share one of your favorites from the garden. Send them to Jane Mullins at ajtmul35@yahoo.com.



Sweet Potato Salad

2 # sweet potatoes peeled and quartered	5 ribs chopped celery
3 TBS course ground Dijon mustard	Salt & pepper
1 tsp each fresh chopped parsley, basil, chives	Mayonnaise

Boil potatoes until just tender and refrigerate overnight. Cut potatoes into bite size pieces. Combine all ingredients and chill before serving

Beef and Black Bean Chili (8 Servings)

1 lb. 95% lean ground beef	½ c. water
2 (8 oz.) cans tomato sauce	1 c. med. or hot chunky salsa
2 (15 oz.) cans black beans, rinsed and drained	low fat sour cream, optional
1 T. chili powder	reduced fat cheddar cheese, grated, optional

Brown meat in a large sauce pan. Drain off drippings. While meat cooks, drain, rinse and mash 1 can black beans. Add mashed beans, the other can of rinsed and drained beans, water, salsa, tomato sauce and chili powder to beef. Stir well. Cover and cook over medium heat 10 minutes. Stir occasionally. Serve by topping with the sour cream and cheese, if you wish.

Dot's Senate Bean Soup (8 Servings)

2 large carrots, sliced	2 (15 oz.) cans Cannellini beans or Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
2 ribs celery, sliced	1 T. dried Parsley
2 cloves Garlic, minced	1 pinch dried Sage
1 large Onion, diced	1 1/2 cup diced lean Ham
2 T. Olive Oil	
3 (15 oz.) cans Chicken Broth	

Saute veggies in olive oil in a large heavy bottom pan for about 5 minutes or until tender. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Stir occasionally.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MARCH 1 Green and Growing Seminar Kingsport Library.
Noon to 1:00 pm Kerrie Sluder Horticulture Teacher at Dobyns-Bennett.
- MARCH 1 Historic Rocky Mount Opens Tuesday to Saturday 11-5:00
- MARCH 2 Jump Start Garden Event JC Senior Center 9 - 3.
- MARCH 2-4 Kingsport Home Builders Show Meadowview in Kingsport
- MARCH 3 Bird Habitats with Bill Grigsby Mize JC 10:00 a.m.
Pre-registration required.
- MARCH 3 Ben Hunter – Compost and Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening
10:00 a.m. - noon Sycamore Shoals State Park
- MARCH 4 Orchid Society of East TN 2:00 p.m. Gray Community Center
- MARCH 4 Rain Gardens for Our Mountain Homes Botanical Garden of Asheville
- MARCH 6 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
Boones Creek Christian Church 7:30 p.m.
- MARCH 6 - JUNE 9 “Wicked Plants, the Weed that Killed Lincoln’s Mother and other
Botanical Atrocities” Exhibit NC Arboretum
- MARCH 7 The Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky Knoxville Museum of Art 10:00 a.m.
- MARCH 7 Roanoke Urban Tree Health Care Workshop 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(trees virginia.org)
- MARCH 7 MG Seed Swap 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Blountville Library
Contact Gail Shaver cgs1955@gmail.com
- MARCH 8 Green and Growing Seminar Kingsport Library
Noon to 1:00 Hydrangeas with Roy Odom
- MARCH 8 Tri-Cities Bee Keepers Association Meeting Kingsport Civic Auditorium
at 7:00 p.m.
- MARCH 10 Tree Keepers Program Steel Creek Park Lodge in Bristol. Begins at
8:30 a.m. Cost is \$10.00 includes breakfast and lunch. To register, call 423-764-0231.
- MARCH 10 Planting by the Moon with Valerie Hyrne and Turf Grass Management
with John Hamrick. Mize in Gray at 10:00 a.m. Please call to pre-register.
- MARCH 10 Growing a Healthy Food Culture 2012 AFMA Conference and Winter Market. Please pre-register by March 1 @
tpeterson@asdevelop.org or call 276-623-1121. The conference will take place at the Russell County Conference
Center in Lebanon, VA
- MARCH 12 Marketing Beef Direct to Consumers Workshop 6:00 p.m. Buffalo Ruritan, Bluff City, TN Call 423-279-2723 to
pre-register and for more information.
- MARCH 17 NETMGA Board Meeting @ Sullivan Co Extension Office 7:30 a.m.
- MARCH 15 Green & Growing Seminar Kingsport Library Noon to 1:00 pm Invasive Plants in our Garden with Kathleen Beine.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS continued

- MARCH 15 SAPS meeting – Seeing Trees: Discover the Extraordinary Lives of Everyday Trees with Nancy Hugo 7:00 p.m. auditorium of the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. downtown Kingsport
- MARCH 17 Preparing Your Garden Beds with Tim Holmes. Mize JC 10:00 a.m. Call to pre-register.
- MARCH 24 Sullivan County Soil Conservation Tree and Shrub Sale @ Volunteer Parkway across from Earhart Campground near BMS. For more info call 423-323-7431
- MARCH 24 Birding with Bill Grigsby Mize in Gray 10:00 a.m. Call to pre-register.
- MARCH 28 Sullivan County Grafting Workshop classes at 1:30p.m. and 6:30p.m. Outdoorsman Clubhouse in Blountville. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$1.00 for each rootstock. Contact Chris Ramsey or register online ASAP.
- MARCH 31 Make Gardening Easy with Perennials with Nina Hedrick. Mize in Gray at 10:00 a.m. Call to pre-register.
- MAR 31-APR 1 WNC Orchid Society Annual Show and Sale NC Arboretum - Asheville
- MARCH 31 SCSC Tree and Shrub Sale @ Volunteer Parkway across from Earhart Campground near BMS. For more info call 423-323-7431
- APRIL 2 NETMGA General Meeting @ Gray Fairgrounds Bldg 1 6:00 p.m. Program: Pruning with Bill Hunt JCPB.
- APRIL 7 Washington County Soil Conservation Annual Tree and Shrub Sale 9:00 a.m. – Noon Jonesborough Field Office 1106 Jackson Blvd.
- APRIL 7 Herb and Wildflower Day 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Townsend Visitors Center
- APRIL 7-30 Fourth and Gill Dogwood Walking Trail www.fourthandgill.org/
- APRIL 8 Knoxville Arboretum - Evening in the Garden with Vince Dooley author of “Vince Dooley’s Garden: A Horticultural Journey of a Football Coach” Reservations required. Call Sherri at 865-862-8717.
- APRIL 11-30 Knoxville Dogwood Trails, Open Gardens and Camera Sites
- APRIL 14 Roan Mountain State Park Easter Egg Hunt
- APRIL 14 Woolly Days at Rocky Mount 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- APRIL 14-15 Create Wildlife Habitats - Botanical Gardens of Asheville 2 day program
- APRIL 20-22 Spring Nature Festival - Warriors’ Path State Park “Reading the Season”
- APRIL 20-22 15th Annual Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire Abingdon SWVA Higher Education Center
- APRIL 21 ETNA Plant Auction @ Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton, 8:00 a.m. to noon.
- APRIL 21 Annual Wildflower Walk - Asheville Botanical Garden
- APRIL 26-29 Cumberland County MG Spring Flower and Garden Show
- APRIL 28-29 Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair
- APRIL 28 Sycamore Shoals Community Plant Exchange 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

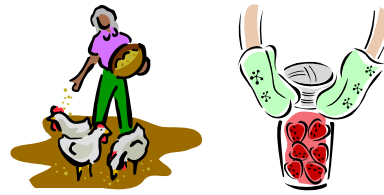


2012 Garden Seminars are scheduled at Mize Garden Centers ...in Johnson City and Gray

All talks are 10 a.m. – 12 noon. Free, but seating is limited, so you must register.

Mize – Gray Call 467-2300 to register

- March 10 Planting by the Moon with Valerie Hyrne and Turf Grass Management with John Hamrick
- March 24 Birding with Bill Grigsby
- April 7 Chickens with Anthony Shelton
- April 14 Canning and Freezing with Elizabeth Elizondo
- April 21 Preparing Your Beds with Tim Holmes



Mize – Johnson City Call 434-1800 to register

- March 3 Bird Habitat with Bill Grigsby
- March 17 Preparing Your Beds with Tim Holmes
- March 31 Make Gardening Easy with Perennials and Top Perennials for our Region with Nina Hedrick



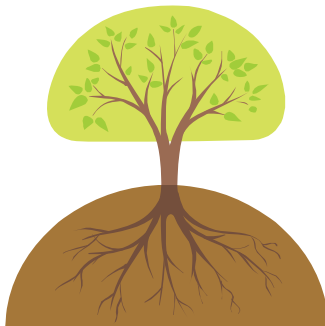
Mize Farm and Garden is now carrying Seed Savers Exchange seeds. Seed Savers Exchange is a non-profit organization dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds. Since 1975, our members have been passing on our garden heritage by collecting and distributing thousands of samples of rare garden seeds to other gardeners. Web site <http://www.seedsavers.org/> ■■■

Ben Hunter's Classes

- Mar 3 - 10 a.m. Vegetable Gardens at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton
- Mar 10 - 10 a.m. Vegetable Gardens at Mooresburg, TN - call 335-7326 to register
- Mar 31 - 10 a.m. Composting and Raised Beds at Sycamore Shoals State Park
- April 25 - Vegetable Gardening - Our Savior Lutheran Church - Call 767-1139



Bristol, TN is again offering the **Tree Keepers Program** this year on Saturday, March 10th at Steele Creek Park Lodge Cost \$10 includes breakfast and lunch. To register, call 423-764-0231



Schedule:	
8:30 a.m.	Light breakfast and check-in
9:00 a.m.	The Tree Basics
10:00 a.m.	What to Look For In Your Nursery Stock
11:00 a.m.	Proper Tree Planting & 1st Year Maintenance
12:00 noon	Lunch and break
1:00 p.m.	Native Trees and Shrubs
2:00 p.m.	Tree Health and Identification Walk

Our Master Gardener group helps fund this educational activity. Hope some of you can attend this year. Guaranteed that you will learn something new!! ■■■



Northeast Tennessee
Master Gardener Association
c/o
UT Extension Sullivan County
3258 Highway 126, Suite 104
Blountville, TN 37617

<http://netmga.net>

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

Don't forget to signup for the Taking Root Newsletter!

http://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_resources/default.asp

Check out NETMGA's website <http://netmga.net/>