

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EARLY 2015!!

Farm Expo - January 17 & 18, 2015

Farm Expo returns to MeadowView Convention Center in Kingsport. Families love this two-day event. Dads can browse and shop for mowers, vehicles, farm equipment, boots, etc.; Moms will enjoy the taste and smells of the Country Fair & Ladies Market. There will be plenty for the kiddies, too! Mark your calendars and plan a weekend of farming and family fun. Keep your eyes on *Kingsport Times News* for more information to come.



Vegetable Gardening 101: Family Fun, Healthy Foods – February 7, 2015

The Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners Class of 2014 will present Vegetable Gardening 101:

Family Fun, Healthy Foods on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport. The workshop is designed for new vegetable gardeners in East Tennessee but will offer learning opportunities for everyone. The workshop will include an opening session by Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, the University of Tennessee Residential and Consumer Extension Specialist followed by sessions on raised bed gardening, gardening in small spaces, and growing super vegetables. The workshop will run from 8:30 to



12:30. Participants are invited to view the Harvest of Hope Gardens after the workshop. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged, and those who register early will automatically be entered to win door prizes (must be present to win). To register, contact RLnetmga@charter.net or call Robert at 276-492-1722 or Dave at 423-929-2233. Come grow with us!?

Upcoming NETMGA Meetings

Monday, January 12th Board Meeting @ Sullivan Co. Extension Office, 6:00 PM

Monday, February 2nd Master Gardener Annual Awards & Recognition Dinner, 6:30 PM,

Second Harvest Food Bank, in the old Sam's Club at Exit 63, off I-81N, near Blountville. Please bring your favorite covered dish. Plates, cups, flatware and napkins and drinks will be provided by Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners will receive their awards for their volunteer hours during 2014. The class of 2014 will be recognized. Please encourage all your Master Gardener friends to attend.



Winter School Set for February 26-27, 2015

Lane Agri-Park, Murfreesboro, TN

Winter School for 2015 will combine leadership and education tracks throughout the two day program. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to attend sessions that correspond to their areas of interest. All sessions available for Master Gardeners and Extension Personnel will provide resources to provide organizational support and educational information to sustain the mission of the program. Lodging information is included in the printable registration form.

NEW for 2015

To assist with the conference, we kindly request volunteers to assist with meals and registration. In return for your generous donation of time to support the conference, each volunteer slot will reduce your conference registration by \$40. You will be able to select these volunteer time slots (average of 4 to 6 hours) after adding the conference registration to your cart.

Pre-register by February 10 for only \$80. Late or onsite registration \$90, meals not guaranteed. For more information about the conference, please contact Natalie Bumgarner at 865-974-7308 or copy and paste the link below to register online.

Online Registration Form: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=415

Feb. 25, Wednesday

1:00-4:00 Silent Auction items may be submitted

Feb. 26, Thursday

7:00 Registration opens, Silent Auction begins
8:00 Welcome with Leadership Introductions – Dr. Chris Cooper
8:15 Our New TMG State Coordinator – Dr. Natalie Bumgarner
9:30 Grow Your Organization with Better Understanding of Personality Profiles and Group dynamics – Melody Rose
11:15 Concurrent Sessions –
*Plant Scouting and Basic Diagnostics for the Master Gardener - Dr. Frank Hale & Dr. Alan Windham
*Increasing your Organization's Digital Footprint - Emily Tipton
12:15 Lunch & Alliance Meetings
1:45 SFE Winner Presentations - Suzanne Allen
3:00 Master Gardeners: Round Table Discussions (Idea Sharing/Networking)
*Social Media *Advanced Master Gardener *Improving Meeting Attendance
*Jr. Master Gardener *Intern Training *Networking
*Educational Events *Fund Raising - small groups *Fund Raising - large projects
3:00 Agents: Visit with Dr. Natalie Bumgarner and Dr. Chris Cooper
4:00 Concurrent Sessions –
*Improving your Membership Recruitment and Retention – Carol Mathews
*Plant Fertilization Strategies – Debbie Joines

Feb. 27, Friday

8:00 Welcome – Dr. Chris Cooper
8:15 Are Hydrangeas Wimpy for Diseases and Insects? – Dr. Mark Windham
9:30 Concurrent Sessions –
*So You Want to Apply for a Grant? – Maureen Mulroy
*Balancing Pesticide Use with Biological Controls – Dr. Frank Hale
10:45 Local Identities – Shared Vision – Janet Carson
12:00 Lunch & Awards Presentations – Dr. Chris Cooper & Dr. Natalie Bumgarner
1:00 Concurrent Sessions -
*Hands on Grafting (Apples and Tomatoes) Chris Ramsey & Dr. Natalie Bumgarner
*GMOs – Who, What, Why – Dr. Scott Senseman, Dr. Dennis West, Dr. Heather Young
3:00 End – Door Prizes and Silent Auction (you must be present to win)

2015 NETMGA Membership Dues

Membership dues are **\$15.00** per year (**\$25.00** for a couple) and are **due by February 2, 2015**. ***If dues are not paid by February 2, 2015, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed.*** You can also pay your dues at the Annual Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 2, 2015 at the reduced rate.

NOTE: Membership is limited to Certified Master Gardeners who have met and reported their volunteer service and CEU requirements in 2014.

Please complete the membership form (located on the back page of this newsletter), make note of any changes to your contact information and include the form with your dues.

January SAPS Meeting - New Tennessee Master Gardener Coordinator to Speak



Natalie Bumgarner

Natalie Bumgarner, UT Residential and Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist and Tennessee Master Gardener Coordinator, will present "Peering into the Toolbox," a discussion of some new innovative practices that should increase productivity for vegetable growers, on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 4:00 pm at Farm Bureau Office Auditorium, 1103 Boones Creek Rd. (Hwy 354), Jonesborough, TN 37659. (Auditorium is in rear of building; park in rear parking lot). In this presentation Dr. Bumgarner will discuss tools for extending the seasons and how you may apply these practices for your own vegetables on a small scale. Secondly, Natalie will demonstrate how grafting is becoming more important to veggie gardeners. She will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of mulching.

Natalie Bumgarner, a West Virginia native with a background in agriculture, received a BS in horticulture from West Virginia University with experience in ornamental greenhouse production. Her MS, also from WVU, focused on small scale organic vegetable production practices. She completed a Ph.D. in Horticulture and Crop Science from Ohio State University with research on environment impacts on yield and crop composition in leafy vegetables. Prior to joining the UT Department of Plant Sciences, Natalie carried out postdoctoral work at Ohio State and was the Horticulturist and Research Director for CropKing, Inc. in Lodi, OH.

Sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society, this program is free and the public is invited. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail injmoore@embarqmail.com.

Native Plant Symposium – January 24, 2015



The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Wild Ones is holding its fourth annual Native Plant Symposium, “Plant Natives 2015 – The Living Landscape” on Saturday, January 24 at Chattanooga State Community College Humanities Auditorium from 9 am to 4 pm with registration beginning at 8 am. The program is keynoted by Doug Tallamy, author, naturalist, entomologist, and photographer. Tallamy is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has written more than 65 research articles and has taught insect taxonomy, behavioral ecology, and other subjects. His books include Bringing Nature Home and co-author with Rick Darke of The Living Landscape.

Doctor Tallamy will be joined by Rita Venable, author of the recently published book Butterflies of Tennessee. Ms. Venable, who will present “A Home for Butterflies,” has published many articles and photographs in nature magazines including American Butterfly, American Gardener, Backpacker, Discover the Outdoors and National Wildlife Online. In addition, she has won Excellence in Craft awards in writing and photography from the Tennessee Outdoor Writers Association and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association.

Landscape design is Kelly Holdbrooks’ expertise. Focusing on design principles and planting design, Ms. Holdbrooks will provide guidance for garden design using native plants. She will also share examples of landscape design at Southern Highlands Reserve, a native plant arboretum and research center in Western North Carolina.

Registration Information:

\$50 in advance for Wild Ones members

\$60 in advance for non-members

\$70 at the door or after January 20, 2015 for everyone

\$20 for students (with a valid student ID)

Lunch is included in the registration fee and there will be door prizes, exhibitors and plenty of friendly people to meet. For more information and to register, go to

<http://tennesseevalley.wildones.org/plant-natives-2015/>.

You may also join Wild Ones through the website or join at the door. Chattanooga State Community College’s Humanities Auditorium is located at 4501 Amnicola Highway, Chattanooga, TN.

The Wild Ones is a national non-profit organization with over 50 chapters in 14 states that promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. For more information about the Wild Ones, go to www.wildones.org. For more information about the Tennessee Valley Chapter email tvalley-wildones@gmail.com or call 423-847-2012.

2014 NETMGA Projects List

1

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

2

Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City
Sam Jones 423-773-3204 simpleintn@yahoo.com

3

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

4

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

5

Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com

6

Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net

7

Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees
Contact Chris Ramsey for details

8

Rocky Mount Living History Site Piney Flats
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392
donfdavis@aol.com

9

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Elizabethton
Vikki Bradach vbradach@gmail.com

10

Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
Claudia Hazel claudiajhazel@yahoo.com

11

Vance Community Gardens Bristol
Gini Powell PowellG@btcs.org
Rebecca Craddock Craddockr@btcs.org

12 &13

Projects 12 and 13 are one weekend a year for each of the 4 activities:

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

Kingsport MeadowView Home Show

Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com



Chris' Corner

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

Winter School 2015 will be a great opportunity for Master Gardeners to network with MGs across the state, expand your knowledge about gardening, and learn more about the UT Extension Master Gardener Program. This event is scheduled for February 26 -27, 2015 in Murfreesboro, TN.

Attendance at this event will fulfill the CEU requirement for Master Gardener certification. The conference will include topics such as Diseases and Insects on Hydrangeas, Information on Balancing Pesticide Use and Biological Controls, Grafting, GMOs, Grant Readiness, Plant Scouting and Diagnostics, Social Media, Advanced Master Gardener, Junior Master Gardener, etc. You'll be sad you missed this event if you don't get to attend.

The UT Extension Master Gardener Program has a new statewide coordinator, Dr. Natalie Bumgarner. WS 2015 will be a great opportunity to hear from Dr. Bumgarner and meet her personally. Registration information can be found on the TMG website at mastergardener.tennessee.edu. I can also email you a copy of the schedule which should be posted on the website soon.

We will again recognize Master Gardeners at the February NETMGA meeting. Hopefully, you and your family will be able to attend. If you have any questions, please call me at any time.

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Cultivating Leadership



This section is dedicated to those who share their gifts and talents with our organization by fearlessly managing and leading Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners. The goal is to educate NETMGA members about each leadership position and encourage those who may feel that serving on the board might be their cup of tea. The positions highlighted are currently held, however if you are interested, just work on building a relationship with person in charge.

See Jane run.... organizing volunteers and moderators for our sprouts!

Every year from September through November our classes begin for those entering the MG program. This is a prime volunteer opportunity and a wonderful way to welcome interns. It is not unusual to see many different MG faces throughout the 3 months of classes. And who coordinates the chaos?

It's none other than our own Jane Mullins. She begins by giving the call for volunteers by way of the MG Thymes and netmga.net. Chris helps by setting the schedule and Sally Richards sends out an email as a last call for volunteers. Jane's goal is to provide each class date with 2-4 volunteers.

In addition to wrapping up volunteers, she communicates with the moderators for each class. (Moderators are the teaching components.) Jane verifies the duties, times, dates and locations for each class. Chris is kept in the loop with each contact she makes. If a moderator is new to the routine, Jane serves as hostess by coming early and providing an orientation.

In 2014 changes were made that simplified this process. Interns were asked to provide their own drink to cut down on moving parts. And a highly organized basket was created to easily transport plastic ware, napkins and trash bags. These changes made our classes more mobile. And who doesn't love a great field trip?

Jane reports that the job of coordination takes a great deal of hours, emails and phone calls, in addition to being present for most classes. If you'd like to help Jane run, don't hesitate to call or email. She will be more than happy to share this work load. Give her a call at 423-737-7915 or email ajtmul35@yahoo.com.

Addendum to Nov/Dec MG Thymes Cultivating Leadership article: Jane Mullins, who was featured as Buds and Sprouts Coordinator in this article, performed that duty in 2013. 2014 Buds and Sprouts Coordinator was Gail Shaver.

JANUARY 2015 Calendar of Events

- JAN 1-4 Lamplight Christmas Wreath Exhibit at Sycamore Shoals State Park
Tues-Sat: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; Sun: 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Wreaths of all designs and colors will be hung from old time lampposts. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- JAN 1-4 Winter Lights, at North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville
6:00-10:00 pm. All tickets must be purchased in advance; no tickets sold at the gate. For information or to order tickets: call 800-514-3849 or <http://www.ncarboretum.org/exhibits/current/winter-lights/>
- JAN 6 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- JAN 12 NETMGA Board Meeting; Sullivan Co. Extension Office in Blountville; 6:00 pm
- JAN 15 SAPS Meeting - "Peering into the Toolbox" with Natalie Bumgarner, UT Residential & Consumer Horticulture Extension Specialist and TNMG Coordinator
4:00 – 5:30 pm. Washington Co. Farm Bureau Auditorium, 1103 Boones Creek Rd. in Jonesborough. Admission: Free. Contact: Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or injmoore@embarqmail.com.
- JAN 17 Composting with Master Gardener Ben Hunter
10:00 – 11:30 am; Mize Garden Center in Gray. Admission is free but please call 423-467-2300 to reserve your seat
- JAN 17 Winter Garden Seminar with Ian Caton of Enchanters Garden Nursery
10:00 am; Warriors' Path State Park Recreation Bldg. on Duck Island. Event is free; pre-registration requested. Contact: 423-239-6786 or 423-239-8531.
- JAN 17-18 Farm Expo, Meadowview Convention Center, Kingsport
- JAN 25 Raised Beds with Marty Litz
10:00 – 11:30 am; Mize Garden Center in Gray. Admission is free but please call 423-467-2300 to reserve your seat
- JAN 31 IJAMS Gardening Series: Seed Swap, IJAMS Nature Center
1:00 – 4:00 pm. Free for everyone, with or without seeds! Location: 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville. Contact: <http://www.exchangeplace.info/>

JAN 31 Adult Workshop: Stone Troughs, UT Gardens, Knoxville
10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Learn how to make unique garden containers using simple ingredients. Participants will make their own stone trough to take home and plant. Cost: \$30/member, \$40/nonmember. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu

JAN 31 Growing Together: Insect Hotel, artful habitat for beneficial insects,
UT Gardens, Knoxville
1:00 – 3:00 pm This class will explore some beneficial insects and how to attract them to your garden. Participants will build an artful insect hotel to take home. Cost: \$30/member family, \$40/nonmember family. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu

FEBRUARY 2015 Calendar of Events

FEB 1 Orchid Society of East Tennessee - 2 pm Gray Community Center.

FEB 2 NETMGA General Membership Awards and Recognition Banquet
6:30 pm at the Second Harvest Food Bank; Exit 63 off I-81N (located in the old Sam's Building). Please bring your favorite covered dish. Plates, cups, flatware, napkins, and drinks will be provided. Master Gardener Awards for 2014 volunteer hours will be presented, and the class of 2014 will be recognized.

FEB 3 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1

FEB 6 Shrubs with Winter Interest at NC Arboretum, Asheville
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Instructor: Andra Nus. Cost: \$27-Member/\$37-Non-Member. Limit 20 participants. Contact: 828-665-2492 or <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Horticulture-and-Conservation-C261.aspx>

FEB 7 Vegetable Gardening 101: Family Fun, Healthy Foods, presented by 2014 NETMGA Class
8:30 am – 12:30 pm. First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged; early registrants will automatically be entered to win door prizes (must be present to win). To register, contact RLnetmga@charter.net; or call Robert at 276-492-1722 or Dave at 423-929-2233.

FEB 7 Turf Grasses with UT Extension Agent John Hamrick
10:00 – 11:30 am; Mize Garden Center in Gray. Admission is free but please call 423-467-2300 to reserve your seat

FEB 7 Ben Hunter – Raised Bed Gardening

9:00 am – 12:00 pm - Sycamore Shoals State Park Community Room (registration not required); contact :423-543-5808.

FEB 8 Home-Grown Revolution: How Re-Imagining Your Home Yard Can Transform the World; Organic Growers School, Asheville, NC

10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Speaker: Peter Bane. Cost: \$65 by Jan. 9th; \$70 after Jan. 9th. Information: <http://organicgrowersschool.org/events/home-grown-revolution/>

FEB 14 Roan Mountain Winter Naturalists' Rally

FEB 21 Herbs with Master Gardener Joy Moore

10:00 – 11:30 am; Mize Garden Center in Gray. Admission is free but please call 423-467-2300 to reserve your seat

FEB 21 Organic Growers School: Farm Dreams?

10:00 am – 4:00 pm; Buncombe County Extension Office, Asheville, NC. Cost: \$55. Information and registration: <http://organicgrowersschool.org/events/farm-dreams/>

FEB 26-27 2015 TN Master Gardeners Winter School, Murfreesboro, TN

FEB 28 Growing Together: Toad Abodes, UT Gardens, Knoxville

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Toads need a place to sleep. This class will explore the world of toads. Participants will also get to create their own toad abode to take home and place in their garden. Cost: \$10/member family, \$20/nonmember family. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu



Master Gardeners: report your hours each month!!



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>

2015 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are **\$15.00** per year (**\$25.00** for a couple) and are **due by February 2, 2015**.

If dues are not paid by February 2, 2015, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed. You can also pay your dues at the Annual Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 2, 2015 at the reduced rate.

NOTE: Membership is limited to Certified Master Gardeners who have met and reported their volunteer service and CEU requirements in 2014. Lifetime members, please refer questions to Chris Ramsey.

Please complete the membership form, make note of any changes to your 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 check if you do not want your contact information shared with all members _____