

SUMMERTIME and the living is...

Check out all the upcoming events, seminars, workshops, etc. in the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue! Many opportunities to get those 8 CEUs necessary to meet your MG certification requirements!!

NETMGA Warrior Path State Park Project State Award of Recognition

The UT Extension Master Gardener project team, led by Gwyn Duncan, has been involved with Warrior Path State Park for many years. All of the projects include the design, planting and maintaining gardens consisting of only Tennessee native plants. Financial assistance to purchase native plants came through Iris Grants from the State of Tennessee. All projects were done in keeping with the original philosophy of their first project. This philosophy is that all plantings in boundless playground are inviting to everyone, including visually and physically impaired individuals of all ages.



This Award of Recognition is for all Master Gardener work done on the playground, Braille Trail, Tree House, Amphitheatre, Rain Gardens, plantings at the Entrance and Exit to the park, sun and shade gardens at the recreation building, and the sensory garden. Master Gardeners also assist with the Day of Caring held in the spring and fall of the year.

These team members were present to receive the award at the June Master Gardener meeting: (L-R) Nina Hedrick, Amy Terry, Judith Gilbert, Robert Lounsbery, Mary Forbes, Nancy Haas, Gwyn Duncan, Kathy Wagner, Larry Wagner and Extension Agent Chris Ramsey.

Upcoming NETMGA Meetings

July 13 Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan County Extension Office, Blountville.

August 3 NETMGA General Meeting with program Making Hypertufa Containers and Leaves and Creating a Habitat for Pollinators. Networking begins at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack to share if you have time. Warriors' Path State Park.

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Put These on Your Calendar



Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest at Exchange Place

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, **July 12**, from 2-5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. Sponsored by Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Homes and Exchange Place, Farm Fest celebrates the pleasures of country life. Step back into the nineteenth century and enjoy fresh summer food like watermelon and corn on the cob, join in activities from bygone days like sack races, hayrides, and cakewalks. Listen to music on traditional instruments, pet the farm animals, and try your hand at old time crafts like stenciling, tin punch, and carding wool. Small children will enjoy washing clothes on the washboard and jumping in the haystack. This free event is part of Kingsport's Fun Fest, and no ticket is required. A shuttle bus will run from Mountain View United Methodist Church to Farm Fest from 1:45 to 5:30 p.m. to ease parking congestion. For more information call 423-288-6071.

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help with plant and garden related children's activities and teaching farm "chores" to visitors. To volunteer contact Joy Moore at injmoore@embarqmail.com or 423-348-6572.



Homegrown Tomato Fest XI

The Eleventh Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, **August 8**, 2015, from 8 - 11 a.m. at the Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street in Kingsport. This celebration of the juicy red fruit features tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, cooking demonstrations, tomato-growing advice, tomato recipes, activities for kids, and fun for the whole family.

Gather your finest and/or funkiest tomatoes and enter them in the contests for Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre and/or Best Dressed. Make an extra batch of your favorite salsa recipe and compete for bragging rights in the Best Salsa Contest. Admission is free and there are no entry fees. Entry forms may be downloaded from the SAPS website, www.saps.us, or picked up at Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) or at the event. Entries will be accepted from 8 - 9 a.m. for all contests, and winners will be announced after 10 a.m.

Volunteers are needed to help slice tomatoes, make tomato sandwiches, staff the salsa booth, coordinate children's activities, etc. It's a fun way to spend a Saturday morning and your volunteer time counts for your Master Gardener community hours. For more information or to volunteer, contact Dennis Marshall, Tomato Fest Chairman, at [423-288-3675](tel:423-288-3675) or dmarshall@chartertn.net

Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and Downtown Kingsport Association.

SAPS Trip to Washington, D.C. – September 18-20, 2015

NETN Master Gardeners are invited to participate in the SAPS September Trip to Washington, D.C. Tentative itinerary includes visits to Hahn Garden at VA Tech, Edith J. Carrier Arboretum at James Madison University, National Mall and US Botanic Garden, National Arboretum, Brookside Gardens, Behnke Nursery, For more information call Earl Hockin at 423-817-5473 or email ehockin@yahoo.com. Registration deadline is August 10. Use this link to download registration form and payments details: <http://saps.us/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/SAPS-trip-to-DC.pdf>.

Master Gardener News!

NEW UT Extension Master Gardener Website

Please take a minute to check out the new UT Extension Master Gardener website <https://extension.tennessee.edu/mastergardener/Pages/default.aspx>. It has been updated and looks great. The Gardening Information from the drop down menu is excellent. The Kitchen Gardener has loads of information and you can also find UT publications there to answer all your gardening questions.

Rain Barrels For Sale

Master Gardeners have rain barrels for sale and they are in my basement! Please purchase one and we will make it for you and deliver it to your door. The cost is \$40.00. Call Jane at 423-737-7915.

Announcing 2015 Fall Master Gardener Class

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested in participating in this year's class!

Registration is now under way for Fall UT Extension Master Gardener Class. Learn to grow the best vegetables and have a beautiful yard; then, volunteer your talent in your community!

Classes begin September 10th and end November 5th. Class will meet Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the UT/TSU Sullivan County Extension Office in Blountville (with the exception of several field trips).

This program serves 5 counties of Northeast Tennessee. Class size is limited so don't delay! To register call the UT/TSU Sullivan County Extension Office at 423-279-2723.

Moderators Needed for the Master Gardener 2015 Class

The Master Gardener Class of 2015 will begin soon. We need Moderators to help with the class. The duties include setting up the room, introducing the speakers, passing out handouts, helping put out refreshments and making coffee or tea, making announcements and staying to the end of class to put the room back in order after class. You may count the hours including your travel. Two to three moderators are needed for each class. Please let Jane know if you are interested. Call 423-737-7915 or email ajtmul35@yahoo.com

Buds and Sprouts

Do you recall applying for the Master Gardener program? Do you remember not really being sure of what to expect? Did you wonder if you would make new friends and learn new things? Were you concerned about the difficulty of the coursework? Would you need to take tests!!!!? What would be expected of you? You were a mere Sprout!

I hope that before your first class you received an email or a phone call from an experienced Master Gardener. The person who contacted you was your new Bud. Buds are meant to help mentor new Sprouts. The possibility of a new friendship on the part of both the Bud and the Sprout is very real. The Bud and Sprout program offers many benefits to both the Bud and the Sprout. The Bud gains a new friend, and has the chance to pass on their knowledge to a new Master Gardener. The Sprout realizes that the Master Gardener program is made up of wonderful, exciting people and feels a little more comfortable when attending their first class or volunteer opportunity.

You may be wondering how much of a commitment this is? Your job as a Bud is to contact your Sprout, make yourself available to answer questions and give your Sprout guidance as they work through the classwork and assimilates into the Master Gardening Program. You may be able to visit the classes but that is not required.

You are thinking this sounds great but how does it work? The process begins when students fill out that all important paperwork. Chris Ramsey delivers the Sprout information to RuthAnn Ranker. She then matches up the Sprouts with volunteer Buds. Once classes begin, RuthAnn will remind the Sprouts to let her know if their MG Bud has not contacted them. If not, she will follow up with a reminder email or call.

If you think you would like to be a Bud, please contact RuthAnn Ranker at 423-676-2362 or ruthannranker@gmail.com. Classes start soon and every Sprout needs a Bud!

Summer – Time for Insects!

Summer is here and with it come many varieties of pollinators and insects!



Carla & Dave Rogers' First Raised-Bed Garden Project, 2015

By Dave Rogers

Carla and I were members of the 2014 NE TN Master Gardener class offered through the UT Extension Service. As we were progressing through the coursework, we began volunteering with the Harvest of Hope Community Garden in Kingsport. There, we learned from Doug Hilton, Phil Ramey, and Earl Hockin how to build raised bed-gardens and decided to build some at home. The picture on the right shows one of the four beds as it was completed in our basement. We built the beds from 5/8"x6"x8' cedar paneling. We limited the width of the beds to 22" to minimize the distance Carla would have to reach across the beds to plant, weed, and harvest due to her chronic back problems. Making the beds of lightweight materials also made it possible to build them indoors and transport them down the 160' hill we call our back yard.



Dave with one of four finished beds

In the future, we will build their eventual mates alongside them at the bottom of the hill using cordless tools and 2" lumber to make them sturdier; we have had some issues with these thin boards wanting to split where the screws were inserted.



8+ inches of snow fell during

Once the beds were built, we had to dodge the snowstorms (remember them?) to get the beds set in our sinkhole out back and fill them with horse manure from Small Miracles and leaf compost from the City of Kingsport. Here's a little reminder of the snow.

Years ago, we had a flat garden at the bottom of the hill. Although the soil was satisfactory there, we abandoned the garden due to the sheer effort involved in dragging a water house from the house 160' down to the garden, then back up again when it was time to mow. When we decided to build some raised beds, the only sensible place to put them seemed to be at the relatively-flat area at

the bottom of the hill. To overcome the obstacle of laborious watering, we decided to install a drip irrigation system and bury the water header.



Carla with finished beds



A full load of horse manure



A full load of leaf compost

In this photo, you see the trench we dug with a mattock following a couple of wet snows. It was mucky, but can you imagine what it would be like after all this hot, dry weather? It's only 3-4" below the surface, so it won't be freeze proof; we'll need to disconnect and drain it at the end of the fall season. We have already tested the draining of it since we had a hard freeze after it was already in service. It drained well with no damage from the freeze.

Note that the trench is "Y" shaped. The right branch of the Y is fed from an outdoor faucet; the left is fed from a rain barrel we built at Exchange Place as part of their Spring Festival.

The piping, drip lines, pressure regulator, backflow preventer, and other fittings came from Drip Depot (<https://www.dripdepot.com/>). It was easy to install, taking less than a late winter's day. After the beds were filled and the irrigation system was operational, it was time to plant. We were still subject to sub-freezing weather at the time, so we decided to use "hoop houses" made from flexible PVC pipe and row cover to get an early start and extend the growing season.



Trench dug by hand for water header

We consulted a number of web sites to help with planning for the garden layout, thinking about how densely we could/should plant as well as what grows well together (companion planting). We noticed that a number of web sites offered web-based planners, but they all seemed to point to the same tool at the same price. We decided to go with the one offered by The Old Farmer's Almanac <http://www.almanac.com/content/online-garden-planner-old-farmers-almanac>. One of the layout options is square-foot gardening, so we decided to try this even though our beds were only 22" wide; we just pretended the beds were 2' wide and improvised when deciding how many plants to put in each "square".

Square-foot gardening allows you to plant quite a few varieties in a relatively small space. We planted the following:

- Spinach (two varieties)
- Brussels sprouts
- Mesclun
- Beets (two varieties)
- Strawberries (two varieties)
- Lettuce
- Broccoli
- Kale
- Swiss Chard (two varieties)
- Radish
- Peas (two varieties)
- Carrots (two varieties)



Hoops on and strawberries planted



Drip lines, PVC hoops, row cover

The software has a feature for succession planting, so we were able to go ahead and plan for summer veggies to follow the spring varieties. We have since planted several tomato varieties, zucchini, yellow squash, and Asian eggplant (shown below).

As much as we have enjoyed learning to build raised beds and grow amazing fruits and vegetables in them, we still rely on growing some herbs and veggies in containers. These are so convenient to water and harvest right on the front step (south facing) of our house. Last year, we moved some of them to the garage once we hit the frost date in mid-October. We picked vine-ripened tomatoes into December!



Broccoli, red lettuce, Brussels sprouts, spinach

Here's a sampling of what is growing out front this year, as well as those garage tomatoes at Christmas.

It has been a great first year for us as Master Gardeners. We have learned so much, but feel like we have only scratched the surface. We remain impressed by the knowledge of our fellow MG's and look forward to picking your brains and trying to absorb some of that knowledge for sharing with others in our community. Thanks to Chris Ramsey for all he has done to get us started as well as our "bud" Nina Hedrick.



Strawberries, radishes, chard, peas, and carrots



Herbs and veggies on the front step



Tomatoes ripening in the garage



Asian Eggplant in bloom



Chris' Corner

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

2015 is moving fast! Many areas finished up June with some rainfall. Maybe saved some gardens for sure! Please continue to record your volunteer hours as the target date for getting these hours submitted is September 30, 2015. The volunteer service requirement is 40 hours for Master Gardener Interns (2014 Class) and 25 hours for certified Master Gardeners. Both of these groups should accumulate 8 hours of Continuing Education (CEUs).

The 2015 Fall Master Gardener class is in the planning stages. The class will be held at the UT / TSU Sullivan County Extension Office in Blountville on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The program will begin on September 10 and end on November 5. Please promote this program opportunity in your community. Interested individuals may call my office at 423-279-2723 to put their name and address on our mailing list. Program details and an application will be mailed in mid-July.

2015 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
Vern Maddux vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com
Betts Leach BettsL@aol.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

JULY 2015 Calendar of Events

- JUL 7 Washington County Bee Keepers Association 7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Bldg #1
- JUL 9-11 *Liberty!*-The Saga of Sycamore Shoals – 37th Season 7:30 pm. Details and ticket cost: 423-543-5808 or <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/libertythe-saga-of-sycamore-shoals>
- JUL 10-18 Kingsport Fun Fest
- JUL 12 Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest, Exchange Place Living History Farm, Kingsport
2:00 -- 5:00 pm. Free admission. Contact: 423-288-6071.
- JUL 12 Sunday Garden Talk: The Sustainable Kitchen Garden at UT Gardens, Knoxville
3:00 – 4:30 pm. This interactive tour will explore natural and sustainable methods for growing fruits, vegetables and herbs. We will discuss composting techniques, disease and insect control, companion planting, variety selection and more. Cost: free/members, \$5/nonmembers. Event Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents>. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu.
- JUL 13 NETMGA Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. at the Sullivan County Extension Office, Blountville
- JUL 14 Garden Workshop – Gardening Problems & Solutions
6:00 – 7:00 pm, Mid-summer gardening problems from bugs to blight will be discussed in this FREE workshop. Carver Park, 322 West Watauga Avenue, Johnson City.
- JUL 16-18 *Liberty!*-The Saga of Sycamore Shoals – 37th Season 7:30 pm. Details and ticket cost: 423-543-5808 or <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/libertythe-saga-of-sycamore-shoals>
- JUL 18 TN Promise Saturday-Invasive Exotics Control
Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park Contact: 423-257-2167 or http://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/davy-crockett-birthplace/tn-promise-saturday-historical-garden-workout

Rocky Fork State Park Contact: 423-637-3709 or http://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/rocky-fork/tn-promise-saturday-trail-projects

Warriors' Path State Park Contact: 423-239-6786 or http://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/tn-promise-saturday-invasive-exotics-control
- JUL 23-25 *Liberty!*-The Saga of Sycamore Shoals – 37th Season 7:30 pm. Details and ticket cost: 423-543-5808 or <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/libertythe-saga-of-sycamore-shoals>
- JUL 24-25 Wild Herb Weekend in Valle Crucis, NC Sponsored by North Carolina Herb Association.
Information and registration: <http://www.ncherbassociation.org/#!wild-herb-weekend/ca3p>
- JUL 25 Xtreme Roan Adventures Youth Rally, Roan Mountain State Park 8:00 am – 4:30 pm. Children ages four and older enjoy a fun-filled day of nature talks, hikes, live animal exhibits, and lunch. Contact: 423-772-0190 or <http://tnstateparks.com/events/details/xtreme-roan-adventures-youth-rally1>
- JUL 25 Growing Together: Carnivorous Plants at UT Gardens, Knoxville
10:00 am - noon. Beware, these plants bite! Learn how and why carnivorous plants have adapted to catch and eat insects, and take one home with you! Cost (per family): \$20/members; \$30/nonmembers. Event registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents>. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu.
- JUL 25 Adult Workshop: Growing in the Shade at UT Gardens, Knoxville
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Learn how to plan your shade garden. Walk through our new hosta garden and our recently renovated shade garden. Get tips on new plants to add and how to care for them. Participants will receive one unique shade plant to take home and plant. Cost: \$30/members, \$40/nonmembers. Event registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents>. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu.

AUGUST 2015 Calendar of Events

- AUG 1 13th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count
8:58 am. Sycamore Shoals State Park: Meet naturalist Don Holt at 9 a.m. for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association and Sycamore Shoals. (Rain Date to be announced). Contact: 423-543-5808.
- AUG 1 Gardening Series with Ben Hunter at Sycamore Shoals State Park
9:00 am – Noon. Ben Hunter will share his experiences and techniques for growing the garden of your dreams! Meet in the park Community Room. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- AUG 1 Fern Identification Class and Fieldtrip at The North Carolina Arboretum
9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Instructor: George Ellison. Learn native fern identification techniques that you can use throughout the year. Following a morning presentation indoors, the class will carpool to a nearby location for an in-depth look at the dozens of fern species found in the Southern Appalachians. \$42 Members/\$50 Non-member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Fern-Identification-080115-P1649.aspx>
- AUG 2 Orchid Society of East Tennessee - 2 pm Gray Community Center.
- AUG 3 NETMGA General Membership 6:00 pm: Networking; Bring a snack to share
6:30 pm: Programs begins: Demonstration on making hypertufa pots, leaves, and faces AND Creating a habitat for pollinators. Location: Warriors' Path State Park, large picnic shelter on Duck Island
- AUG 4 Washington County Bee Keepers Association 7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- AUG 8 Homegrown Tomato Fest in Kingsport 8-11am; Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street
- AUG 9 Sunday Garden Talk: The Sustainable Kitchen Garden at UT Gardens, Knoxville
3:00 – 4:30 pm. This interactive tour will explore natural and sustainable methods for growing fruits, vegetables and herbs. We will discuss composting techniques, disease and insect control, companion planting, variety selection and more. Cost: free/members, \$5/nonmembers. Event Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents>. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu.
- AUG 9 Nature Walk with Jay Kranik 9:00 – 11:00 am; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.
- AUG 15 Landscaping with Edible Perennials at The North Carolina Arboretum
10:00 am – 2:30 pm. Instructor: Sheila Dunn. Whether you are interested in greater sustainability, growing tasty, chemical free food, or just curious about incorporating a few more fruits into your landscape, this session will offer practical tools to incorporate perennial edibles into landscape design. \$37 Member/\$47 Non-member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Landscaping-with-Edible-Perennials-081515-P1581.aspx>
- AUG 23 Botanical Garden Walk with David Clarke 9:30 -11:30 am; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Register: 828-252-5190.
- AUG 24-29 Appalachian Fair, Gray
- AUG 29 Adult Workshop: Gardening for Butterflies at UT Gardens, Knoxville
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Want butterflies in your garden? Don't forget to plant nectar and host plants. This session will look at several native butterflies and what plants they need to survive. Participants will get to take a plant home to help start their butterfly garden. Cost: \$20/members, \$30/nonmembers. Event registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/UTGardensEvents>. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or utgardens@utk.edu.
- AUG 29 Mosses and Liverworts at The North Carolina Arboretum
9:30 am – 4:30 pm. Instructor: Jim Goldsmith. This workshop will be divided between field trips around the Arboretum and classroom discussion of the characters and terminology necessary in the identification of common species of mosses and liverworts. Participants will learn collection techniques and look at common mosses and liverworts. \$47 Members/\$57 Non-member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Mosses-and-Liverworts-082915-P1719.aspx>
- AUG 30 Plant Families by Marc Williams 12:00-4:00 pm; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190.



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>



Master Gardeners: report your hours each month!!