

## . WELCOME to 2016!!

Here we are in a new year with new learning opportunities! Take advantage of the seminars and workshops being offered; you can get the 8 CEUs necessary to meet your MG certification requirements and maybe learn a few things to prepare for the upcoming growing season!! Check out the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



## Congratulations Master Gardener Class of 2015

Gordon Backer, Rebecca Burke, Jennifer Dunn, Minnie Gray, Melissa Hale, Cheryl Heisey, Melissa Honeycutt, Mary Ann Lovelace, Debbie Morrison, Mary Beth Owens, Mary Redlinger, Terry Redlinger, Tava Smith, Carol Tyree, Lynne Wampler, Angelic Winters, Linda Wolford, Joseph Wooten.



## NETMGA Meetings

**NETMGA Board Meeting:** Monday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ticket Office at the Appalachian Fair Grounds in Gray, TN.

**NETMGA General Membership Awards Banquet:** Monday, February 1 at the Appalachian Fair Grounds, Building #1, in Gray. Bring your family and a covered dish or two. All awards will be presented. We will have door prizes and maybe even some silent auction items. Come and enjoy a wonderful dinner and evening of fellowship with your Master Gardener friends.



**Thank You to everyone who helped with or attended the December 7 NETMGA Dinner/ Auction.**

## **Featured Project**

### **Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area**

If you want a beautiful and peaceful place to earn your volunteer hours, check out the Master Gardener Project at **Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area** located in Elizabethton, TN. We have two designated sites in which to volunteer: Sycamore Shoals Visitor Center with Fort Watauga and the Carter Mansion.

#### **THE HERB BEDS AND POLLINATOR GARDEN BEHIND THE MAIN VISITOR CENTER**

The Class of 2006 first developed the herbs beds and the pollinator gardens. The herb beds are located just outside the walls of Fort Watauga. The pollinator garden is located west of the fort in a large field by the Watauga River. (Walking to the pollinator garden is easy but you will need to know the approved way to drive there with your garden tools.)



***Herb Beds at Fort Watauga***



***Pollinator Garden by the Fitness Trail and Watauga River***

The pollinator garden is located along the fitness trail that runs through the park. Many walkers and runners enjoy the paths inside the garden and also resting on the nearby benches. As we are pruning the plants and pulling weeds we are frequently asked the names of the flowers and are thanked for making the walkers "trail time more enjoyable."

The flowers native to Tennessee, located in the garden are: Black haw trees, Buttonbushes, Spicebushes, Beautyberry bushes, Rhododendron, Redbud trees and Switchgrass. There is a brilliant color mixture of Blue star, Bee balm, Black-eyed Susan, Giant blue hyssop, Coneflower, Summer phlox, Blue cardinal flower, Red cardinal flower, Blazing star, Wild geranium, Joe Pye weed, Narrow leaf mountain mint, Boneset, Appalachian violets and Butterfly weed. Several varieties of asters and goldenrod continue to provide flowers until frost. One unusual goldenrod in the garden is the Stiff Goldenrod *Oligoneuron rigidum*.



***Stiff Goldenrod – Oligoneuron***

The entire pollinator garden is a designated MONARCH WAYSTATION. One of the guidelines required for a Monarch Waystation is the inclusion of milkweed since it is the **only** plant the monarch butterfly uses to lay eggs and the caterpillar uses for food. In the late summer and fall, the monarchs migrate through our area on their long southern flight to Mexico where they overwinter in the tall Oymel fir trees in the 10,000-foot mountain sanctuaries. Our gardens can provide the necessary plants for a final reproduction cycle during that journey. Visitors are often amazed to see more than one caterpillar munching on a single plant while at same time adult monarchs are swooping down to take nectar from the fall blooming asters.



*Monarch caterpillars on Milkweed*



*Monarch Butterfly on Aster*



*Pollinator Garden*



*Fritillary on New England Aster*



*Zebra Butterfly on Milkweed*

The gardens benefit from many pollinators such small animals, birds, bats, flies, beetles, butterflies, moths and bees. Eighty percent of the world's plants, including many that provide the food we eat, depend on these pollinators. An especially beautiful pollinator, the Zebra Butterfly, was photographed in the garden taking nectar from a butterfly weed. The Zebra is the designated TN State Butterfly.

## THE KITCHEN GARDEN AND ORCHARD AT THE CARTER MANSION

If you want another lovely spot to accrue your Master Gardener hours, Carter Mansion at 1031 Broad Street, Elizabethton, TN, is a beautiful historical site to do so.

Carter Mansion was built by Landon Carter between 1715 and 1781 on the banks of the Watauga River. It is the oldest frame house in the state of Tennessee. Mr. Carter served as the Secretary of State for the short-lived State of Franklin. He and his wife, Elizabeth, hosted many political and social gatherings in this home. Carter County was named for Landon Carter, and Elizabethton is named for his wife.

Around 10 years ago, John Large, a native of Elizabethton who grew up across the street from the Mansion, developed the herb and vegetable gardens. He has strived to be as true as possible to gardens planted in the Carter era.



***Kitchen Garden***



***Raised Beds***

In 2012, Master Gardeners became involved in helping at this site. Raised beds have been rebuilt in both gardens, gravel has been placed in the pathways, wild raspberries have been enclosed in raised beds, and two compost bins have been built. It is an ongoing process.

At this point, the focus of the vegetable garden has been changed into raising fruit. John has planted 9 apple saplings that are descendants from the original apple orchard. Grape vines have also been planted. Perennials remain in the beds, and some vegetables will be planted in the next season.

Feel free to join us in this relaxing historical place!

The Master Gardeners who provide maintenance include: Vikki Bradach, Leann Clemons, Laura Eryasa, Mary Forbes, Jude Gilbert. For information about working in the gardens, contact: Carolyn Martin at 423-543-3752 or [cbmartin36@me.com](mailto:cbmartin36@me.com); or Elizabeth Mason at 423-571-2620 or [ekmason1090@gmail.com](mailto:ekmason1090@gmail.com).

## Put These on Your Calendar

### "What's Wrong With My Garden Plants"

Dr. Alan Windham and Dr. Frank Hale, UT Plant Pathologist and Entomologist respectively, UT Plant Pest Soils Diagnostic Lab, Nashville, TN will present "What's Wrong With My Garden Plants" on Thursday, **January 21, 2016**, at 7:00 p.m., at the Food City Store Meeting Room, 920 State of Franklin Rd. (corner of Sunset Drive) in Johnson City.

These UT experts have over 50 years of combined experience assisting nurserymen, greenhouse growers, landscapers, and home gardeners across the state. They are engaging speakers who also present many out of state workshops on plant problems annually. They will discuss how to identify common pests attacking our plants and how to combat them. They will also alert us to some of the new pests that are threatening plants in Tennessee landscapes, forests and gardens, including providing updates on current landscape problems in roses, boxwoods, crape myrtle, and others.

You are encouraged to bring plant samples, including photos, of current and past problems from your garden for advice from the state experts.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information call 423-348-6572 or e-mail [jinmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:jinmoore@embarqmail.com).

### Growing Grapes Lecture



Dr. David Lockwood, UT Extension Specialist specializing in tree fruits, nuts and wine, will speak on "Growing Grapes in Tennessee Home Gardens" on Thursday, **February 18, 2016**, at 7 p.m. location to be announced. Whether you want to grow grapes for direct consumption or for wine making Dr. Lockwood will provide guidance on recommended varieties for east Tennessee gardens and how best to plant and care for them. Dr. Lockwood has traveled and lectured extensively throughout the United States as well as in many foreign countries, including France, Italy, and Spain, and is recognized as a grape specialist and wine connoisseur. Bring your questions and learn from an expert how to make a home vineyard a reality.

Dr. Lockwood received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and joined the faculty of the University of Tennessee Plant and Soil Sciences in 1973. He currently holds faculty appointments at the University of Georgia as well as at UT.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), this program is free and the public is invited. For more information call [423-348-6572](tel:423-348-6572) or e-mail [jinmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:jinmoore@embarqmail.com).

**IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!! Please complete the form in this newsletter and send with your membership dues by February 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid late fee!**



## Chris' Corner

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

Happy New Year! I recently wrote an article in the Kingsport and Bristol newspapers about delaying pruning. As each year goes by, each year's weather is very different. All we know about the weather is what has already happened. At this point, we know that most plants probably haven't achieved dormancy. With temperatures in the 70s over the past week or so, they sure aren't getting any closer. This means that plants are very much susceptible to winter injury if we get a severe drop in temperature of 50 to 60 F over one or two days. A plant that is cold hardy to -10 F might be injured at 10 F with a sudden drop in temperature.

Hopefully, you have decided to again join the

local Northeast TN Master Gardener Association (NETMGA). This group serves a vital role in creating a strong Master Gardener Program for you to enjoy. NETMGA also serves as a link to the State of TN Master Gardener Program. The group helps me manage programs, projects, event promotion, volunteer hours, annual reports and many other essential functions that benefit you as a Master Gardener.

The Annual Master Gardener Recognition Dinner will be on Monday, February 1. Also save the dates of March 17-19 for the State Master Gardener Conference to be held in Knoxville. If you have any questions, call my cell phone at 423-646-9043.

### 2015 NETMGA Projects List

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|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b><br/><b>Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park</b> Kingsport<br/>Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 <a href="mailto:geduncan@charter.net">geduncan@charter.net</a></p> <p><b>2</b><br/><b>Carver Peace Gardens</b> Johnson City<br/>Sam Jones 423-773-3204 <a href="mailto:simpleintn@yahoo.com">simpleintn@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>3</b><br/><b>Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden</b><br/>Marcia Vandermause <a href="mailto:mmvdvm@charter.net">mmvdvm@charter.net</a><br/>Judy Penley <a href="mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com">chscgarden@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>4</b><br/><b>Exchange Place Living History Farm</b> Kingsport<br/>Earl Hockin-Vegetable Garden <a href="mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com">ehockin@yahoo.com</a><br/>Dave Gostomski-Lawns, Trees, etc. <a href="mailto:e3fan98@yahoo.com">e3fan98@yahoo.com</a></p> <p><b>5</b><br/><b>Harvest of Hope Community Garden</b> Kingsport<br/>Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 <a href="mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com">howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>6</b><br/><b>Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital</b> Johnson City<br/>Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 <a href="mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net">voigt7b@comcast.net</a></p> <p><b>7</b><br/><b>Northeast State Community College Gardens to Degrees</b><br/>Contact Chris Ramsey for details</p> | <p><b>8</b><br/><b>Rocky Mount Living History Site</b> Piney Flats<br/>Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943- 2392<br/><a href="mailto:donfdavis@aol.com">donfdavis@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>9</b><br/><b>Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park</b> Elizabethton<br/>Vikki Bradach <a href="mailto:vbradach@gmail.com">vbradach@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>10</b><br/><b>Tipton Haynes Historic Site</b> Johnson City<br/>Vern Maddux <a href="mailto:vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com">vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com</a><br/>Betts Leach <a href="mailto:BettsL@aol.com">BettsL@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>11</b><br/><b>Vance Community Gardens</b> Bristol<br/>Gini Powell <a href="mailto:PowellG@btcs.org">PowellG@btcs.org</a><br/>Rebecca Craddock <a href="mailto:Craddockr@btcs.org">Craddockr@btcs.org</a></p> <p><b>12 &amp; 13</b><br/>Projects 12 and 13 are one weekend a year for each of the 4 activities:</p> <p><b>Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo</b><br/>Penny Rutledge <a href="mailto:pennyrutledge2@aol.com">pennyrutledge2@aol.com</a></p> <p><b>Kingsport MeadowView Home Show</b><br/>Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 <a href="mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com">howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com</a></p> |
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## 2015 Master Gardener Class Project

The 2015 Master Gardener class is creating a weekend workshop on the benefits of gardening for our class project. We intend to create a program that could be repeated as needed in surrounding communities. Much of our audience will be low income and we are hoping to work in conjunction with the TNCEP Program (food stamps). The program will last approximately 2.5 hours and projected date for the program is March 5th, 2016, with a snow date of March 12th, 2016.

There will be two brief concurrent opening introductions: one for adults and one for youth. After the welcome and introduction the attendants will participate in two workshops. In one workshop attendants can visit tasting stations that will each highlight a particular fruit or vegetable and include cooking and preserving information. In the second workshop attendants will be given their own bucket to plant and take home. We are hoping to have the option to plant seeds and seedlings. The first session will last about 45 minutes then there will be a small break before the second session begins.

We will need help gathering and preparing resources as well as help presenting and running the workshops. Master Gardeners exude a wealth of knowledge and talent and we'd love to have you! Our next meeting will be on **January 7th** at 10 am at the Sullivan County Extension office in Blountville. We hope to see you there!

### The Garden Scene – by Bonnie Jean Manning

As an introduction, I would say that I have been a Master Gardener since 2008. I love gardening, feeding birds and I am trying to develop a habitat for our friends. My philosophy is simply WWD – WATER, WEED, & DEADHEAD. In my mind this produces the best results.

After a great deal of thought, and research, I have chosen to discuss Butterfly Gardens. Having one of my own, I can appreciate the value of such a lovely endeavor. Not only is it pleasing to the eyes, it renders a wonderful service to our beautiful butterflies, birds, and little creatures.

As in all cases involving a garden of any sort, the first decision is that of choosing an area appropriate to the occasion. A site that has some sun, and that is protected from the wind is best for butterfly gardens. Next is preparation of the soil. Once you have established the type, you need to determine the PH, in order to make the proper amendments. This can be accomplished through the local Extension Agency for a minimal fee.

Additionally, low areas need to be filled in for proper drainage and the ground may need to have a slant for runoff. Once these are taken care of, a determination of watering needs must be assessed. Dig a hole the size of a gallon container. Fill the hole with water. Sandy soil will naturally drain more quickly; clay on the other hand will take four hours or more. Good soil will take 2-4 hours to disperse. When watering adequate amounts must be applied to roots; however, too much water can cause infectious diseases. The best time to water is early in the morning between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

At this point, the plants and their organization need to be taken into consideration. Next draw up a plan, allowing for space each plant will require. Some trees and bushes should be added to afford cooling and night roosting.

Suitable plants include flowers and shrubs such as butterfly bush (although there is some caution that hybrid bushes may not be good as they are not native to the area), phlox, ironweed, sassafras, spicebush, passion flower, cone flower, native azaleas, and many more. Nectar Plants include asters, black-eyed susans, butterfly weed, cosmos, ironweed, Joe pye weed, purple cone-flowers, sedum, and zinnia. Food plants for larvae (caterpillars) include milkweed, plantain, even dandelions and clover (these are even good outside of the garden area). Learn how to distinguish larvae you're trying to attract from pest species. It is also beneficial to leave grass a little higher, about 3." A few large flat rocks are beneficial for sunning on cool mornings. Butterflies cannot drink open water so provide a puddle by filling a container with sand where they can perch and drink safely. An old birdbath will work nicely. At various stages butterflies winter over—butterfly houses are nice for this, but they are only for winter use.

Once you have accomplished all of the necessary steps—Stand back and enjoy! All of your little friends will.

As an added plus, The North American Butterfly Association has chapters nation-wide, and their website is an excellent source for butterfly gardeners. It is possible to have your garden certified as a butterfly habitat.

*Sources used: National Gardening Assoc., Lifescript Health with Heart, Ecosystem Gardening Co.*

## 2016 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are **\$15.00** per year (**\$25.00** for a couple) and are **due by February 1, 2016**.

***If dues are not paid by February 1, 2016, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed.***

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Dues can also be paid at the membership meeting on February 1st.

## 2016 NETMGA OFFICERS

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## Pics from the December Membership Dinner!



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

## JANUARY 2016 Calendar of Events

- JAN 6 Washington County Bee Keepers Association; 7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- JAN 11 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m. at the Appalachian Fairgrounds Ticket Office, Gray TN.
- JAN 13 Vegetable Gardening for Beginners Series, UT Gardens  
6:00 – 7:30 pm. Series runs 1/13/16 – 3/2/16 (5 sessions). Cost: Member-\$5/session (\$20/entire session) or Non-Member-\$10/session (\$40/entire session). Registration and Contact: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>.
- JAN 16 Herbs with Jean Cope  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- JAN 17 Symphony of the Soil - Film Screening  
2:00 pm at Hollingsworth Auditorium, UT Gardens, Knoxville. UT Soil Science Professor Neal Eash will lead a Q&A session after the film. Cost: \$5 to benefit the UT Gardens. Contact: (865) 974-8265 or [utgardens@utk.edu](mailto:utgardens@utk.edu).
- JAN 21 January SAPS Meeting: "What's Wrong With My Garden Plants?"  
7:00 – 8:30 pm; at Johnson City Food City Store Meeting Room, 920 State of Franklin Rd. Presented by Dr. Alan Windham and Dr. Frank Hale, UT Plant Pathologist and Entomologist. Contact: 423-348-6572 or e-mail [injmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:injmoore@embarqmail.com).
- JAN 23 Seed Starting & Propagation with Mimi Hale  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- JAN 23 Adult Workshop: Propagation, UT Gardens  
1:00 – 3:00 pm. Cost: Member-\$25/session or Non-Member-\$35/session. Registration and Contact: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>.
- JAN 23 Lichens - The North Carolina Arboretum  
9:30 am – 3:00 pm. Instructor: Jennifer Love. Spend the day delving into the enchanting world of lichens as we learn their basic ecology, identification and natural history during this workshop. \$47 Member/\$57 Non-Member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Lichens-12316-P1788.aspx>
- JAN 30 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Garden Seminar  
10:00 am Warriors's Path State Park, Duck Island Recreation Bldg. Winter is a perfect time to plan a habitat that will invite wildlife into your own backyard; join Justine Cucchiara of Seven Islands State Birding Park for a workshop on Wild Yards. Free; registration required. Contact: 423-239-6786.

## FEBRUARY 2016 Calendar of Events

- FEB 1            NETMGA General Membership Awards Banquet; 6:30 pm  
Appalachian Fairgrounds Building 1, Gray TN.
- FEB 2            Washington County Bee Keepers Association; 7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- FEB 4            Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place 7:00 pm
- FEB 6            Fruit Trees with John Hamrick, UT Extension  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 6            Adult Workshop: Fruit Tree Pruning, UT Gardens  
9:30 am – 12:00 pm. Cost: Member-\$15/session or Non-Member-\$20/session. Registration and Contact: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>.
- FEB 7            Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.
- FEB 13            Vegetable Gardening with Phil Ramey  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 17            Winter Tree Identification A - The North Carolina Arboretum  
1:00 – 4:00 pm. Instructor: Carlton Burke. In this class we will view trees in the landscape and woodland and learn to identify them based on silhouette, bark, twigs, and other characteristics. Participants will receive the booklet "Winter Tree Finder." \$37 Member/\$47 Non-Member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Winter-Tree-ID-A-21716-P1790.aspx>
- FEB 18            February SAPS Meeting: "Growing Grapes in Tennessee Home Gardens"  
7:00 – 8:30 pm; location to be announced. Presented by Dr. David Lockwood, UT Extension Fruit Specialist. Contact: 423-348-6572 or e-mail [ijnmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:ijnmoore@embarqmail.com).
- FEB 24            Winter Tree Identification B - The North Carolina Arboretum  
1:00 – 4:00 pm. Instructor: Carlton Burke. In this class we will view trees in the landscape and woodland and learn to identify them based on silhouette, bark, twigs, and other characteristics. Participants will receive the booklet "Winter Tree Finder." \$37 Member/\$47 Non-Member. Registration: <http://www.ncarboretumregistration.org/Winter-Tree-ID-B-22416-P1792.aspx>
- FEB 27            Raised Beds with Martin Litz  
10:30 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free but please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 27            Adult Workshop: Terrariums, UT Gardens, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Cost: Member-\$25/session or Non-Member-\$35/session. Registration and Contact: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>.

