

It's SUMMERTIME!!

How does your garden grow?

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!!



2016 UT Extension Master Gardener Class Begins August 23rd



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

Registration is now under way for the 2016 UT Extension Master Gardener Class. Classes will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, August 23, 2016. Classes will meet in the Cornerstone Building behind Piney Flats First Baptist Church at 100 Cherry Street in Piney Flats.

Additional information and class schedule will appear on following pages.

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 2016 Master Gardener Evening Classes

Anyone interested in being a moderator for one of the 2016 UT Extension Master Gardener classes should contact Jane Mullins at ajtmul35@yahoo.com or phone 423-737-7915. Moderators are asked to come to the class early to be sure the room is set up correctly, to help set up refreshments, to introduce the speaker, keep them on schedule and to do any clean up needed after the class. It may also involve securing and returning equipment from Chris. This job will count as ACT hours for those who volunteer.

2016 UT Extension Master Gardener Class Schedule

(Note: there is no class on Election Tuesday, the week of Thanksgiving, or the month of December)

August 23 - Introduction to Horticulture - Forster Levy, ETSU

August 30 - Introduction to Master Gardeners - Dr. Natalie Bumgarner and Chris Ramsey

September 6 - Soils - Chris Ramsey, Sullivan County Extension

September 13 - Three Season Gardening - Earl Hockin (this class will be in Kingsport location TBA)

September 20 - Plant pathology - Jack Price, Hawkins County Extension

September 27 - Growing, Preserving and Using Herbs - Joy Moore and Jane Mullins

October 4 - Basic Landscaping - Nathan Brown, PLA, ASLA

October 11 - Pesticide Safety - Melody Rose, Greene County Extension

October 18 - Entomology Mannie Bedwell - Hamblen County Extension

October 25 - Seed Starting and Plant Propagation
Dave Rogers, Nina Hedrick, Phil Ramey
(This class will meet at the Exchange Place in Kingsport)

November 1 - Weed Science - Phil Blevins - Washington County VA Extension

(Beginning November 15 classes will meet at the Extension office in Blountville)

November 15 - Lawns - Chris Ramsey - Sullivan County Extension

November 29 - Growing Fruit Trees and Berries - Dr. Lockwood - Blountville

January 3 - Water Management - Joy Stewart - Blountville

January 10 - IPM - John Hamrick - Washington County TN Extension - Blountville

January 17 - Turn in Test, Wrap up, and Awards Dinner - Chris Ramsey - Blountville

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 ruthannranker@gmail.com or 423-676-2362. Classes start soon and every Sprout needs a Bud!



Rain Barrels For Sale

Jane Mullins has a few more rain barrels for sale. Contact Jane at 423-737-7915 if you are interested in purchasing one. She will deliver it to your door. The cost is \$40.00.

NETMGA Meetings

NETMGA Board Meeting: Monday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m. at Appalachian Fairgrounds Ticket Office in Gray.

NETMGA General Membership Meeting: Monday, August 1 at the Second Harvest Food Bank, located in the old Sam's Warehouse at I-81 Exit 63, 1020 Jericho Drive, Kingsport, TN.

6:00 p.m. Networking and refreshments

6:30 p.m. Meeting begins

This month's program: "Investment Gardening - Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs, and Vegetables" Members will be discussing their favorite and recommended plants.

Please bring a snack to share, if you have time. Hospitality will provide drinks and paper supplies.

Also, please remember to bring a non-perishable food or a cash donation to help the Food Bank.

Put These on Your Calendar

SAPS Local Garden Tours

This summer SAPS is offering the opportunity to visit some fabulous private gardens in the Tri-Cities area. These garden tours are open to SAPS members only. Not a SAPS member? You may join at the garden tour. Come rain or shine on the date designated. Cold water will be provided in each garden. Check Facebook and SAPS website (www.saps.us) for additional information. Please carpool if possible, since parking is limited at each location.

SAPS Tour #1: Rebecca Milhorn Garden

Thursday, July 14; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

200 Allison Court, Piney Flats, TN

Becky is a renowned landscape designer in the area. SAPS members are making a return visit to this beautiful garden which has changed and evolved since our visit. Becky is a plants woman and you will get many ideas of plants and design concepts that you will want to add to your garden. This is a year-round green wonderland with all kinds of flowering and foliage plants, including several that bloom in winter. Husband Jack Baumgardner is a beekeeper and claims to produce the best honey in East Tennessee. The woodland garden is broken up into walking trails and is illuminated at night.

Directions: From Piney Flats (11E) on Pickens Bridge Road turn right onto New Bethel Road. In .8 mile turn left into Allison Timbers subdivision. Once in subdivision take first left and bear left. 200 Allison Court is on cul-de-sac.

SAPS Tour #2: Kim Whiston Rock House Garden

Thursday August 4; 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

(Not Kim's home garden)

1325 Sulfur Springs Rd. (Hwy. 75), Jonesborough

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to tour Kim Whiston's Rock House Garden which features a huge collection of shrubs and perennials, those for sun and shade. Kim is a well-known area landscape designer with a passion for hydrangeas, many in bloom during your summer visit to her garden. You can see some of Kim's work at www.facebook.com/EastTennesseeGardenCoach.

Directions: I-26, take Exit 13 in Gray, to TN-75 S/Suncrest Drive. Go 5.1 miles. Rock House is on right. It is next store from Sulfur Springs Volunteer Fire Dept.

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest at Exchange Place

Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest will provide old-fashioned family fun on Sunday, **July 17**, from 2:00 – 5:00 pm 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.

This is a fun, family oriented community event and we always need volunteers. 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 423-348-6572 or ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.

Homegrown Tomato Fest XII is August 13!

The Twelfth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place Saturday, **August 13**, 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 or dmarshall@chartertn.net.

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

Southern Appalachian Plant Society Trip to the Lexington, KY Area September 9 - 11

The SAPS group would like to invite the members of NETMGA and their friends to join them on their fall tour to Lexington, KY area **September 9 - 11**.

Some of the trip highlights include the UK Arboretum, the private garden of Jon Carloftis, the Kentucky Artisan Center, a bourbon distillery, Wilson's Nursery, a therapy garden, a cutting garden open to the public, the Shaker Village and lots of fun with a great group of gardeners. Invite a friend and Come along!

The itinerary and registration can be found by going to www.saps.us. Click on Trips for all the information. If you are not already a SAPS member, you can pay the \$20.00 for dues and this will give you SAPS membership through 2017.



Chris' Corner

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

Our summer gardening season is moving quickly this year. We have finalized the details for UT Extension 2016 Master Gardener Training Program. The program will be held one time each week on Tuesday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The first class will be on Tuesday, August 23 and the last class will be on Tuesday, January 17. There will not be any classes on Election Day, Thanksgiving week, or during December. Please promote this program in your community, church, other clubs, and with friends. If you would like to have some flyers to distribute, I can mail you some or send you the file to print.

Hopefully, you have started entering your volunteer hours. Collectively, the hours of each Master Gardener makes great impact at the local and state level. The report of MG volunteer hours goes a long way in justifying the funding for our Master Gardener Program. These hours may be entered either online or via our paper report form. If you having problems with entering hours or if you need someone to enter the hours for you, please call me at 279-2723 or 646-9043.

2015 NETMGA Projects List

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

Gardeners and Epsom Salt!

Most people have heard of Epsom salt and they typically associate it with baths, as this natural salt from Epsom, England is probably best known as a way to help relieve aches and pains.

Epsom salt can also be an effective gardening tool. Epsom salt, magnesium sulfate, provides soil and fertilizer with a boost minerals. Check out these ways to use Epsom salt in the home garden.



1. Produce More and Tastier Nightshades

Plants in the nightshade family include tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and potatoes. All nightshade plants need magnesium, as it will help them produce greater yields with more flavor. It's recommended to sprinkle 1 tablespoon (15 mL) of Epsom salt around the base of plants. Alternatively, mix the salt with a gallon of water and water the plants with the mixture. Repeat this every two weeks.

2. Thwart Garden Pests

While Epsom salt won't make snails and slugs shrivel up like table salt, it does irritate them. Moreover, Epsom salt is similar to diatomaceous earth, keeping pests away. Note that the salt is water soluble so reapplications are necessary.

3. Make Fruits Sweeter

Add Epsom salt to trees, bushes, and vines that produce fruits to help boost the chlorophyll inside the plant, therefore increasing its sugar production.

4. Eliminate Weeds

Mix a couple cups of Epsom salt with a gallon of vinegar and some liquid dish detergent. Put the mixture into a spray bottle, and spray it on any weeds that pop up. Avoid spraying any plants that you want to live.

5. Overcome Transplant Shock

Epsom salt can help plants overcome transplant shock. Either sprinkle some Epsom salt around the soil near the base of the plant and then water it, or sprinkle Epsom salt into the hole or planter that the plant will be moving to (before moving the plant, cover the Epsom salt with a bit of dirt.)

6. Keep Leaves Green

Leaves turning yellow? Plants might not be getting enough magnesium! Try giving plants 1 tablespoon of Epsom salt for every 12 inches of height, once a month.

7. Tree Stump Removal

Removing a tree stump can be very costly so try using this trick instead! Drill holes into the stump and fill them with Epsom salt. Within weeks, the stump should begin rotting away.

8. Lawn Fertilizer

Lawn looking dull? Add 3 pounds of Epsom salt for every 1,250 square feet of grass and then water lawn.

9. Stunning Roses

Sprinkle some Epsom salt at the time of planting and when the flowers are in bloom. The salt encourages the rose bushes to produce larger flowers with deeper colors.

10. Splinter Removal

Got a splinter while gardening? Mix 2 tablespoons of Epsom salt with warm water and soak the affected area. This will help draw the splinter out of the skin.

11. Give Ferns a Boost

Mix a tablespoon of Epsom salt with a gallon of water and spray ferns and similar plants, such as elephant ears.

12. Better Potted Plants

Potted plants are more prone to becoming magnesium deficient; try adding 2 tablespoons of Epsom salt to the surrounding soil once a month.

JULY 2016 Calendar of Events

JUL 11 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. Appalachian Fairgrounds Ticket Office

JUL 14 Edible and Medicinal Plants Walk at Steele Creek Nature Center (Bristol, TN)

4:00 pm. A mild walk into to the woods to learn about some common but beneficial plants of the region.

JUL 15-23 Kingsport Fun Fest

JUL 16 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park

8:00 am. The event usually lasts for 4 hours. Volunteer activities include trail improvement, exotic-invasive plant removal, or stream clean-up. Be sure to pack water and snacks. Wear sturdy shoes or boots & work gloves. Meet at: Rocky Fork State Park Main Entrance Gate 501, Rocky Fork Road, Flag Pond. Contact: Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov. or 423-271-1233

JUL 17 Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest 2016 at Exchange Place in Kingsport

2:00 – 5:00 pm.

JUL 17 The Peculiar World of Fungi with Mike Hopping

2:00 – 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 or bgardens@bellsouth.net.

JUL 22 Evergreen of Johnson City's Moonlight Madness

7:00 – 11:00 pm. Moonlight Gardening Seminar at 8:00 pm.

JUL 22-24 Wild Herb Weekend – NC Herb Association in Valle Crucis, NC

Information and registration: <http://www.ncherbassociation.org/#!/wild-herb-weekend-1/ca3p>

JUL 23 TN Promise Saturday Park Beautification at Warriors' Path State Park

8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Meeting Location: Warriors Path Swimming Pool Parking Lot / 490 Hemlock Road, Kingsport. Event Contact: Ranger Brian Glover 423-239-8531 or Brian.Glover@tn.gov.

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JUL 23 TN Promise Saturday River Clean-Up and Park Beautification at Roan Mountain State Park
9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Meeting Location: 1015 Hwy 143 Roan Mountain, TN. Event Contact: Ranger Meg Guy 423-772-0190 or meq.guy@tn.gov.

JUL 23 TN Promise Saturday Trail Improvement Project at Rocky Fork State Park
2:00 – 6:00 pm. Meeting Location: Rocky Fork State Park Main Entrance Gate/501 Rocky Fork Road, Flag Pond. Contact: Ranger Tim Pharis, 423-353-0899 or Tim.Pharis@tn.gov. Limit: 10 participants.

JUL 29 Aquatic Investigations at Steele Creek Nature Center (Bristol, TN)
9:00 am. A trip to the lake to learn about the science of limnology and also see what's alive in Steel Creek Park's largest aquatic environment.

AUGUST 2016 Calendar of Events

AUG 1 NETMGA General Membership Meeting
6:00 pm-Networking; 6:30 pm-Meeting begins. Second Harvest Food Bank, Blountville, TN. Program: "Investment Gardening - Perennials, Shrubs, Herbs, and Vegetables" Members will be discussing their favorite and recommended plants.

AUG 2 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1

AUG 6 14th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count
9:00 am. Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals for this day-long winged adventure across town. Contact: 423-543-5808

AUG 6 Sycamore Shoals State Park – Gardening with Ben Hunter
9:00 am – 12:00 pm; Fall Gardening. Meet in Park Conference Room. Contact: 423-543-5808.

- AUG 6 Dragonflies and Damselflies at Steele Creek Nature Center (Bristol, TN)
2:00 pm. A mild walk looking for these summertime gems of the sky.
- AUG 7 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.
- AUG 13 Homegrown Tomato Fest XII - Kingsport Farmers' Market 8:00 – 11:00 am.
- AUG 13 Natural Dye Symposium at UT Gardens
9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Learn how to grow plants that produce natural dyes and how to dye natural fiber. Participants will get an opportunity to dye some fibers during the program. Unique textiles and choice plants that produce natural dyes will also be available for sale. All participants will receive one plant and seed to grow your own natural dye at home. Lunch is included. Cost: \$50 members/\$60 non-members.
Registration: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/>
- AUG 20 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park
8:00 am. The event usually lasts for 4 hours. Volunteer activities include trail improvement, exotic-invasive plant removal, or stream clean-up. Be sure to pack water and snacks. Wear sturdy shoes or boots & work gloves. Meet at: Rocky Fork State Park Main Entrance Gate 501, Rocky Fork Road, Flag Pond. Contact: Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov. or 423-271-1233
- AUG 21 Nature Walk with Jay Kranyik
9:00 – 11:00 am; Asheville Botanical Gardens Visitor Center. Rain or shine – bring rainwear/ umbrella. Cost: \$12 members; \$17 non-members. Participants must register and pre-pay. Information or to register: 828-252-5190 or bgardens@bellsouth.net.
- AUG 22-27 Appalachian Fair, Gray
- AUG 23 2016 UT Extension Master Gardener Classes Begin
- AUG 27 Caterpillar Crawl at Steele Creek Nature Center (Bristol, TN)
2:00 pm. A stroll looking for and identifying the larva of moths and butterflies.
- AUG 30 Fall Gardeners' Festival – UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center
All Day Event; Crossville

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

