

2017 is Here!!

Wow! 2017 already! Time for new goals, new challenges, new opportunities! I've received many new 2017 seed and plant catalogs, and I've already started planning my spring gardens. How about you?

It's not too early to start earning 2017 CEUs so you'll be free to garden when spring arrives. Check out the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



Sullivan County UT Extension Office Assistance



Occasionally office help is needed in Chris's office! Do you like people, or working in an office for short periods of time, or helping people on the phone? Would you like to earn a few extra volunteer hours for doing those things?

If this volunteer opportunity appeals to you, contact Betts Leach, who coordinates the office volunteers, at BettsL@aol.com. Provide your name, address, phone number, and email address.

Newsletter Assistance Requested!

Help is needed searching for calendar events, articles of interest to Master Gardeners, etc. If interested, please contact Editor Betts Leach at BettsL@aol.com.



NETMGA Meetings

NETMGA Board Meeting: Monday, **January 2** at 6:00 p.m. in the Sullivan County Extension Office Meeting room, Blountville, TN.

NETMGA General Membership Awards Banquet: Monday, **February 6** at the Appalachian Fair Grounds, Building #1, in Gray, 6:30 pm. Bring your family and a covered dish or two. All awards will be presented. We will have door prizes. Come and enjoy a wonderful dinner and evening of fellowship with your Master Gardener friends. Please remember, in case of inclement weather, we follow the schedule of Northeast State Community College.

Dear NETMGA Members,

On behalf of the NETMGA Board and the Program Committee (Kathy Waldo, Nina Hedrick, Delette Walker, Mary Beth Wooten, Jane Mullins), we would like to thank each and every member who attended and or contributed to the Christmas Dinner/ Live and Silent Auction.

We have exceeded our goal to complete the donations for the UT Endowment Foundation. Thanks to all of you we have an Endowment to the University of over \$25,000 in the name of NETMGA. What a great accomplishment and it is all thanks to our membership!

Hopefully, no one will be left out of the following list of people who not only attended the dinner, but helped out behind the scenes. Many hands made for light work.

Special thanks to: Colonial Heights Christian Church, Nancy Haas and Family, Marty and Lisa Thomas, Bob and Pat Mazurkiewicz, Nina Hedrick, Larry and Kathy Wagner, Tava Smith, Mary Beth and Joe Wooten, Kathy Waldo, Delette Walker, Sally and Dan Richard, Angie Droke, Gwyn Duncan, Nancy Shilling, Eva Johnson, Bill Speed and Mrs. Speed, Jerry Ramey and Mrs. Ramey, Dave Gostomski, Carla and Dave Rogers, Ruth Ann Ranker, Beth Jinks, Phil and Gwen Ellis, Chris Ramsey, Amber and Melissa Ramsey, Avery Mullins, the sound and music from the Wooten's, the wonderful kitchen crew, everyone who served the meal and helped with the appetizers, everyone who donated appetizers or secured an item from a business for the silent auction, members who made donations, but were unable to attend the dinner, everyone who helped with clean-up, everyone who helped move tables back in place, everyone who helped load or unload a vehicle, and everyone who carried off trash. Special thanks to everyone who participated in the Silent and Live Auction, Dr. Andy Pulte (UT Gardens in Knoxville), Jason Reeves (UT Gardens in Jackson) for all the fabulous live and silent auction plants, Pam Offield, Phil Ramey and Eva Johnson, Elissa Steeves, Eddie Ramsey, Carl Voigt and Betts Leach. We appreciate every act, donation and contribution made to reach this goal. Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners are just the best! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

If you received an item or gift certificate from a business, please take time to thank them for their contributions. Many of the members actual made and donated baskets or gifts for the silent auction, so many thanks to them for their time and talents.

This event shows what can be accomplished when we all work together. To all NETMGA members we wish you a very Happy New Year 2017 and many more gardening times together!

Sincerely,

Jane Mullins

Kathy Waldo

Nina Hedrick

Delette Walker

Mary Beth O. Wooten



Scholarships



One of the things that keeps our industry great is the passionate students that learn the ins and outs of developing, growing and selling plants and then work as horticulturists.

College has become ever more expensive and Proven Winners in the 4th year of offering scholarships to students in both 4-year universities and technical and community college settings. We get a good number of applications for the 4-year scholarships we offer.

However, we could use your help getting the word out about the 5 \$2,000 scholarships we offer for students at tech schools and community colleges. There are 3 ways you can help. You can help us by simply sending [this link](#) to any high school student, or their parents, that you know is interested in horticulture.

Second, we have established contact with every land-grant university in the US, but we don't have those contacts with community and technical institutions. So if you know of schools in your area with horticulture programs, please send me the name of the school and the city and state or province in which it is located. I'll find a contact person there. Or if you have a contact, forward the info along yourself.



Lastly, you can send the [information](#) about these scholarships to your local high schools. While students in any high school setting can love plants, schools with FFA, ag programs, school gardens or greenhouses are the most likely to have students that know about horticulture and could take immediate advantage of this opportunity. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!!

Please complete this form and send with your membership dues by February 1st to avoid late fee!

2017 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$15.00 per year (\$25.00 for a couple) and are due by December 31, 2016.

If dues are not paid by February 1, 2017, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed.

Mail to: Sally Richard 137 Benwood Lane Gray, TN 37615

Name			Class Year	
Address				
City	State	Zip Code	County	
Email Address			Phone #	
Please check if you cannot receive the newsletter via e-mail				

Please remember to report your volunteer and CEU hours and verify you have met your certification requirements.

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

Put These on Your Calendar

Best Trees and Shrubs for Local Landscaping

Johnson City's City Forester Pat Walding and Kingsport's City Landscaping Director Lewis Bausell will discuss Best Trees and Shrubs for Local Landscaping on Thursday, **January 19**, 2017, at 7 p.m. at Johnson City Power Board Building Auditorium on Boones Creek Road (Hwy 354.) in Jonesborough. These experienced plantsmen will share information about the many different species of trees and shrubs they have selected and managed over the years and provide suggestions of excellent species to consider as we plan our own home landscapes. With nearly 20 years of service each overseeing selection and maintenance of their respective cities' urban forests as well as streetscapes, their experiences have given them unique perspectives on what trees and shrubs thrive in our region.

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

The Magical World of Moss Gardening

Annie Martin, a.k.a. Mossin' Annie, owner of Mountain Moss Enterprises in Brevard, NC and author of *The Magical World of Moss Gardening*, will present "Go Green With Moss" on Thursday, **February 16**, at 7 p.m. at Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. in downtown Kingsport. With impressive photography and live bryophyte ID specimens so attendees can take a closer look, Martin will share her passion for mosses in an informative, fun program. She will provide profiles of the best mosses to grow and expert tips on planting and care, as she outlines the year-round green advantages of native mosses in sustainable landscapes, native restorations and even traditional gardens. Mossin' Annie will sell and autograph her book, *The Magical World of Moss Gardening* (Timber Press 2015) following her lecture.

Fascinated with mosses since childhood, Annie Martin has earned her reputation as an expert through years of personal research and experimentation with moss gardening methods. Owner of Mountain Moss Enterprises, Mossin' Annie wears many moss hats: plant rescuer, farmer, landscaper, lecturer, educator, and now, author. Born and raised in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, she passionately advocates the advantages of eco-friendly mosses by imparting how-to knowledge from a practical point of view. She has shared her expertise with many garden clubs and environmental groups. This past March, she was a garden speaker at the prestigious Philadelphia Flower Show and in August, she gave moss programs at the Speaking of Gardening Symposium at the NC Arboretum in Asheville. Her work has been highlighted in the New York Time, Seattle Times, Carolina Home and Garden Magazine and numerous regional publications.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), lecture is free and the public is invited.

As a bonus for SAPS members only, at 3 pm on February 16 at the same location Mossin' Annie will lead a moss workshop where participants will make a moss dish garden or "moss as art" creation to take home. A supplies fee of \$20 per person covers all mosses, native plants, decorative rocks and containers. Registration is limited to 30 participants. To reserve your spot, mail check, payable to "SAPS," to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. Registration deadline is Friday, February 10. Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Not a SAPS member yet? You may include \$20 for 2017 membership dues along with your registration fee.

For more information on either program call Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or e-mail ijnjmoore@embarqmail.com.



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY

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

Happy New Year to all of our Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Volunteers! As we move into 2017, you will be learning about some new opportunities. Mark your calendars for June 8 for the Eastern Region Master Gardener Education Workshop. This event will be held at the Plateau Research and Education Center in Crossville and will feature tours of the research and education center, the Discovery Gardens, garden photography sessions, and managing home ponds.

You will have an opportunity to connect electronically with Master Gardeners across the state on Zoom. These meetings will be held at 11:00 AM and will feature the following topics:

- Jan 13- Introduction and discussion for new (and not so new) TEMG officers
 - Feb 3- Learning to answer horticulture questions from citizens
 - June 2- Mentoring to retain interns and engage experienced TEMGs
 - Nov 3- Speakers bureaus
- Our program started in Tennessee in 1985 and in Northeast Tennessee in 1994. Because of the longevity of this great program, we have many long time Master Gardeners that should be recognized for their continued involvement. To meet this need for recognition at the state level, new name badges for 10, 15, 20, and 25 year Master Gardeners will be available beginning in 2017.

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
TBA</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
TBA</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> |
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JANUARY 2017 Calendar of Events

- JAN 2 NETMGA Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. at the Sullivan County UT Extension Office, Blountville TN.
- JAN 3 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- JAN 14 28th Annual Winter Garden Seminar - Butterfly Gardening
10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Kris Light of Oak Ridge will share her butterfly and gardening wisdom. Warriors' Path State Park, Recreation Bldg. Free; registration requested: Contact: 423-239-6786 or Marty.Silver@tn.gov.
- JAN 15 Best Plants of 2016 and Garden Trends, UT Gardens
2:00 – 3:30 pm. Cost: Member-Free or Non-Member-\$5. Registration required: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-2395780>.
- JAN 19 January SAPS Meeting: Best Trees and Shrubs for Local Landscaping
7:00 pm; at Johnson City Power Board Building Auditorium on Boones Creek Road (Hwy 354.) in Jonesborough. Presented by Johnson City's City Forester Pat Walding and Kingsport's City Landscaping Director Lewis Bausell. Contact: 423-348-6572 or e-mail sapsinfo@embarqmail.com.
- JAN 21 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park (3rd Saturday of every month in 2017)
8:00am - 12:00 pm. 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. Contact: 423-271-1233 or Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov.
- JAN 21 Local Birds with Charlene Thomas
10:00 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- JAN 21 Bonsai for Beginners, UT Gardens
10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Cost: Member-\$25 or Non-Member-\$30. Registration required: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-2394577>
- JAN 21 Worm Composting Workshop, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
9:00 – 11:00 am. Cost: Member-\$15 or Non-Member-\$20. Registration required: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/worm-composting-workshop/>
- JAN 28 Conifers for Gardeners, UT Gardens
8:30 am – 12:00 pm. How to grow and use conifers in the landscape followed by a choice, exclusive conifer sale! Cost: Member-\$30/Non-Member-\$35. Registration required: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=911

Master Gardeners: Report your hours each month!!

2017 NETMGA OFFICERS

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FEBRUARY 2017 Calendar of Events

- FEB 2 Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place 7:00 pm
- FEB 5 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.
- FEB 6 NETMGA General Membership Awards Banquet
6:30 pm.; Bring your family and a covered dish or two. Appalachian Fairgrounds Building 1, Gray TN.
- FEB 7 Washington County Bee Keepers Association
7:30 pm; Appalachian Fairgrounds, Building #1
- FEB 11 Ask the Pros – Q & A Class with Phil Ramey and Melissa Hale
10:00 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 11 Winter Naturalists' Rally 2017 at Roan Mountain State Park
9:00 am. Contact: Friends of Roan Mountain: 423-772-3500, www.friendsofroanmtn.org or Roan Mountain State Park: 423- 772-0190
- FEB 16 February SAPS Meeting: "Go Green with Moss"
7:00 pm; at Kingsport Center for Higher Education. Presented by Annie Martin, a.k.a. Mossin' Annie, owner of Mountain Moss Enterprises in Brevard, NC. For SAPS Members: Moss Workshop at 3:00 pm. Contact: 423-348-6572 or ijnmoore@embarqmail.com.
- FEB 18 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park (3rd Saturday of every month in 2017)
8:00am - 12:00 pm. 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. Contact: 423-271-1233 or Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov.
- FEB 25 Vegetable Gardens with Ben Hunter
10:00 am. Mize Farm & Garden in Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.
- FEB 25 Fruit Tree Pruning, UT Gardens
9:00 am – 12:30 pm. Cost: Member-\$15 or Non-Member-\$20. Registration: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=927

