

It's Summer! Fun Events & Festivals Are Here!

Summer has arrived and many areas are hosting fun festivals, concerts, baseball and other fun events. But don't forget about your gardens! They still need attention, whether it rains hard or not at all!

In addition there are opportunities to earn 2017 CEUs and volunteer hours in the next couple of months. Check out the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



2017 UT Extension Master Gardener Class Begins September 5th



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

Registration is now under way for the 2017 UT Extension Master Gardener Class. Classes will meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Classes will meet at the UT-TSU Sullivan County Extension building, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

Additional information and class schedule will appear on following pages.

NETMGA Meetings

NETMGA Board Meeting: Monday, **July 3** at 6:00 p.m. in the *NEW* Sullivan County Extension Office, 140 Spurgeon Lane Blountville, TN.

NETMGA General Membership Meeting: Monday, **August 7**

6:00 Networking - 6:30 Program begins (more information inside newsletter)

Master Gardener Membership Meeting

Our next general meeting will be **Monday, August 7th** in the new UT-TSU Sullivan County Extension building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. Our program will be Seed Saving with Jack Woodworth. Jack is a seed saver and raises heirloom seeds for a local seed company. He provides his seeds for sale seasonally at local farmers' markets. The Woodworth's also sell various goat milk cheeses, soaps, baked bread and eggs at farmers' markets in the area. Doors open at 6:00pm for networking and the meeting will begin at 6:30pm. Feel free to bring a covered dish to share.

UT EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENER CLASSES 2017

SEPTEMBER 5 - OCTOBER 31

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9 AM – 12 NOON

RON RAMSEY REGIONAL AGRICULTURE CENTER

140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN 37617



COST OF CLASS \$175.00

Partial Scholarships Available

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

AUGUST 15th

Would you like to grow beautiful vegetables or have a great-looking flower garden?

Maybe you would like to network with other gardeners and volunteer in your community. If this is for you, come join us in our Master Gardener program.

For more information, contact:

Chris Ramsey, (423) 279-2723

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.

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STATE UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension

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 16**, from 2-5 p.m. at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. Farm Fest celebrates the pleasures of country life as visitors 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, hay rides, 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.

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, teaching farm "chores" to visitors, and serving watermelon and corn on the cob. **Your volunteer time counts as Master Gardeners hours.** To volunteer contact Joy Moore at [423-348-6572](tel:423-348-6572) or injmoore@embarqmail.com.

August Herb Saplings Meeting

Herb Saplings, the SAPS herb focus group, will meet on **Thursday, August 3**, at 7 pm at Exchange Place. Sheridan Nice, owner of Mona Lisa's Gelato & Cafe in Johnson City, TN, will speak on Fermentation. Sheridan is a formally French trained chef. A graduate of La Varenne, Ecole de Cuisine, Paris and a recipient of a Baking and Pastry scholarship from The Culinary Institute of America, Napa Valley, CA. Sheridan is a caterer, private chef, and teaches cooking classes in our region. She and her husband, Stephen have one of the most talked-about gardens in East Tennessee and use it to provide the freshest ingredients at their restaurant. Sheridan specializes in soups and everyday her restaurant features at least 5 or 6 wonderful selections. Please bring an herb snack if you have time.

Homegrown Tomato Fest XIII

The Thirteenth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place **Saturday, August 12**, 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 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.

Take The Time To Grow The Best Thyme

There's truly no thyme like the present.

Versatile and beautiful, thymes should have a place in every **herb garden**. All thymes (*Thymus spp. Labiatae*) are **perennial** herbs with very small leaves and tiny flowers ranging in color from white through pink to deep rose-magenta. The **creeping thyme** types, such as mother-of-thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*), will cover bricks and stones or low walls and can tolerate a certain amount of foot traffic. *T. 'Coccineus'* is a mat-forming cultivar with showy reddish purple flowers and bronze fall foliage. The bush forms are 6 to 8 inches high and have woody, wiry stems and branches.



Common thyme (*T. vulgaris*) is the type of thyme most frequently used for cooking. Most thymes are very fragrant, with aromas reminiscent of coconut, orange, balsam, oregano, lime, or nutmeg. Golden lemon thyme (*T. * citriodorus 'Aureus'*) has yellow-edged leaves and a strong lemon odor. Zones 4 or 5–9, depending on the species and cultivar.

How To Grow Thyme



Thymes need full sun and a dry, gritty soil. Buy named cultivars as plants, or plant thyme seed outdoors in a prepared bed in fall or spring, or start your seeds in flats indoors. Bush thymes (except for variegated cultivars) often seed themselves freely, so there should be no shortage of new plants if the old ones don't come through a hard winter. To propagate cultivars, separate rooted pieces or take cuttings. In the North, protect plants from winter damage with a covering of evergreen boughs.

Harvesting Thyme

When plants are beginning to flower, cut off the top half and hang to dry in a shady place or dry on trays in a food dehydrator. Once the leaves are thoroughly dry, strip them from the stems and store in a dark place until ready to use. You may harvest pieces from thyme plants all summer, but don't cut them back severely in fall.



Using Thyme

One of the essential oils in thyme is thymol, still used by pharmacists, especially in cough remedies. Thyme is antiseptic, as well as an aid to digestion. In the kitchen, thyme is a wonderful addition to pasta and pizza sauces, salad dressings, stews, stuffings, meat loaf, and soups, and is especially good with poultry, fish, and eggs.



Chris' Corner

CHRIS RAMSEY

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

We sure had plenty of rain this spring! With good soil moisture, we are likely to have more grubs than usual causing damage to our lawns. The best time to control grubs in the home lawn is late July. There are multiple products available such as liquid Sevin and even season-long control products. Grub control should be applied just before a rain to move it into the soil to increase their effectiveness. Applying these products in late July will allow control when grubs hatch in early to mid-August. Refer to the following publications on grubs and lawn insects:

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/documents/pb1158.pdf>

At the time of this newsletter, we are tentatively planning an Open House for UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County in late July. Watch for more information about this event. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the new Ron Ramsey Regional Ag Center, hopefully you will be able come by soon. This new facility is quickly becoming very busy. Many events, including Master Gardener, other Extension Programs, and non-Extension events, are filling the calendar for late summer and fall.

Hope to see you soon!

Lawn Insects: How to Control Them :

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
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 nancyshillig@gmail.com</p> <p>3
Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden
Marcia Vandermause mmvdvm@charter.net
Christine Barger 423-288-5115 o773h@hotmail.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@embargmail.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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JULY 2017 Calendar of Events

JUL 13 Living Soil Class at The North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville

10:00am – 12:00pm. This class will focus on all the forms of life found in healthy soil, the soil-food web and how we can use this information to improve gardening techniques. Cost: \$37. Register: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/Living-Soil>

JUL 13-29 Liberty: The Saga of Sycamore Shoals

JUL 14-22 Kingsport Fun Fest

JUL 15 Volunteer Day at Rocky Fork State Park

8:00am-12:00pm Contact: Phone: 423-271-1233 or Email: Jesse.Germeraad@tn.gov

JUL 16 Hamlett-Dobson Farm Fest 2017 at Exchange Place in Kingsport

2:00 – 5:00 pm. Information: <https://www.exchangeplace.info/festival-details>

JUL 21 Moonlight Madness at Evergreen of Johnson City

7:00 – 11:00pm. Huge discounts on greenhouse plants plus Moonlight Gardening Seminar! Call 423-282-3431 to register for seminar.

JUL 21-23 30th Annual Wild Herb Weekend, NC Herb Association

Information & registration: <http://www.ncherbassociation.org/>

JUL 22 Gardening for Wildlife Class at Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum

9:00-11:00am. Class location: The Mule Barn. Cost: \$15 KBGA Members / \$20 Non-Members. Registration: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/wildlife-gardening/>

JUL 29 Xtreme Roan Adventures Youth Rally 2017 at Roan Mountain State Park

8:00am – 4:30pm. Children ages four and up enjoy a fun-filled day of nature talks, hikes, live animal exhibits, and lunch. Pre-registration required. Contact: 423-773-9234 or Ken@XtremeRoanAdventures.org

AUGUST 2017 Calendar of Events

AUG 2 - 6 Water | Ways: A Smithsonian Exhibit at Warriors' Path State Park

Noon – 6pm. Contact: 423-239-8531

AUG 3 Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place

7:00 pm

AUG 6 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 1 pm Gray Community Center.



Featured Project

Featured Projects will return in the next MG Thymes Newsletter

2017 NETMGA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Jerry Ramey
423-863-4599
ramey4820@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT Gwen Ellis
423-612-1068
gmhellis@aol.com

TREASURER Pat Mazurkiewicz
423-323-1644
robmazur@chartertn.net

SECRETARY Nancy Shilling
423-833-1420
nancyshilling@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE Brent Tennant
423-276-2164
batennant@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENT Bill Speed
423-483-1511
bspeed@lbrtax.biz

ADVISOR Chris Ramsey
423-646-9043
cwramsey@utk.edu

2017 NETMGA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CERTIFICATION OFFICER
Angie Droke 423-578-8281
adroke@chartertn.net

MEMBERSHIP Sally Richard
423-341-6166
sdr37615@comcast.net

PROJECTS Johnny Suthers
423-323-2202
jchemie@aol.com

BUDS and SPROUTS
Ruth Ann Ranker
423-676-2362
ruthannranker@gmail.com

2016 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES
Jodi Jones 901-483-7800
madre81@aol.com

Brent Tennant
423-276-2164
batebbabt@yahoo.com

PROGRAMS Mary Beth Wooten
404-697-9881 or 423-297-1434
mbowenswooten@gmail.com

PROGRAMS Co-chair Tava Smith
423-557-3683
tavasmith@outlook.com

WEBSITE Carl Voight
423-467-2013
voigt7@comcast.net

PUBLICITY Beth Jinks-Ashworth
423-534-5422
bethjinks1968@yahoo.com

FACEBOOK Joe Wooten
678-817-8281
Joe76dw@outlook.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Betts Leach
423-571-8662
BettsL@aol.com

NEWSLETTER LAYOUT DESIGN
Junella McClellan
423-534-8097
j.mcclellan@hotmail.com

HOSPITALITY
Kathy & Larry Wagner
423-323-5446
kwagner@chartertn.net

AUG 7 NETMGA General Meeting

6:00pm Networking; 6:30 Program: Jack Woodworth will be speaking about seed-saving techniques. Location: New Sullivan County Extension Building, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville

AUG 12 Homegrown Tomato Fest at Kingsport Farmers' Market

8:00 – 11:00am

AUG 12 Hypertufa Class at UT Gardens

1:00 – 3:00pm. Learn how to make unique garden containers out of simple materials. This class will explore the origins of stone troughs and how hypertufa can make a great container for your plants. Cost: Garden member \$25/nonmember \$35. Registration: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=931

AUG 19 Harvest Craft Bazaar at Tipton Haynes State Historic Site

12:00 – 4:00pm. Shop for local handmade and homegrown items of all kinds, and enjoy a day in the sun with the members of the Upper East Tennessee Celtic Society. For more information visit <http://uppereasttncelticsociety.org/>.

AUG 20 Naturalist Walk with Jay Kranyik at The Botanical Gardens at Asheville

9:00 – 11:30am. Cost: \$12 for members, \$17 for non-members. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay for classes: 828-252-5190.

AUG 21-26 Appalachian Fair, Gray, TN

AUG 26 Milkweed, Monarchs & Migration Class at The Botanical Gardens at Asheville

10:00am – 12:00pm. Cost: \$12 for members, \$17 for non-members. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay for classes: 828-252-5190.

AUG 29 Fall Gardeners' Festival at Plateau AgResearch Center (Crossville)

All Day Event



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

