

## Happy New Year!!

2019 has arrived! Have you gathered and checked, or ordered seeds for this year? Growing season is just around the corner so start your planning now!

Why not get a jump on volunteer hours and CEUs for 2019? There are plenty of opportunities in the next few months. See the Calendar of Events located at the end of this issue!



## Congratulations and Welcome to NETMGA Master Gardener Class of 2018



## NETMGA Board Meeting

Monday, **January 7, 2019** at 6:00 p.m. in the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane Blountville, TN.

## NETMGA Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet

The NETMGA Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet will be held on Monday, **February 4, 2019**; in The Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. Dinner will be at 6:30. Doors open at 6:00 for networking and fellowship. Please bring your family or a friend and one or two of your favorite covered dishes to share. Drinks will be provided. We will have door prizes! Come and enjoy a night with your fellow Master Gardeners. In case of inclement weather, we follow the schedule of Northeast State Community College.

## 2019 Membership Reminder

Have you paid your 2019 Membership? If not, please complete the form below and send it with your payment to Sally Richard.

### 2019 NETMGA Membership Form

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year (\$30.00 for a couple) and are due by December 31, 2018.

If dues are not paid by February 1, 2019, there will be a late fee of \$5.00 (\$10 for a couple) assessed; however, you can pay your dues at the Annual Recognition Dinner on Monday, February 4, 2019 at the reduced rate.

Please complete the membership form, make note of any changes to your contact 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 remember to report your volunteer and CEU hours and verify you have met your certification requirements.

<https://temg.tennessee.edu/>

## Put These on Your Calendar

### No Herb Saplings Meeting in January

#### January SAPS Program

#### Joe Lamp'l on No-Till Gardening

Joe Lamp'l, nationally syndicated garden writer and host of the award winning national PBS series, Growing a Greener World, will present "No-Till Gardening" on Thursday, **January 17**, at 7 p.m. at Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660.

Joe Lamp'l maintains, "If you love your soil, ditch the tiller!" Nationally known for his knowledge and enthusiasm for gardening and environmental stewardship, Joe will explain the problem with tilling and why no-till gardening is the best thing we can do to prepare and maintain an area for planting, resulting in improved soil and fewer weeds. He will also describe how to prepare a new plot using the no-till method.

As host of 3 national television shows, the author of several books (including The Green Gardeners Guide; simple significant actions to protect and preserve the planet), a syndicated newspaper column and with regular appearances on the Today Show, Good Morning America, and The Weather Channel, Joe Lamp'l is one of the country's most recognized and trusted personalities in gardening and sustainability. For the past nine years, has been the Creator, Executive Producer and Host of the award winning national PBS series, Growing a Greener World®. Prior to that, he hosted Fresh from the Garden on DIY Network as well as on-air contributor to The Today Show, Good Morning America and The Weather Channel. In 2011, Past awards include The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication - through print, radio, television, podcasts and other online media and Best On-Air Talent for Television by the Garden Writers Association. Joe is also the founder and "Joe" behind joegardener.com – a garden-intensive site launching in spring 2017, dedicated to all things gardening and horticulture through how-to videos, podcasts, articles and blog posts. When he's not working in his large, raised bed vegetable garden, he's likely planting or digging something up, or spending time with his family on their organic farm, just north of Atlanta, GA.



Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com), or visit <http://saps.us/>.

#### February Herb Saplings Meeting

**February 7**; 7 pm at Exchange Place. Speaker: Reeda Tate. Bring a snack to share if you have time. All SAPS members are welcome to attend Herb Saplings meetings.

## February 2019 SAPS Program

### Dr. Andy Pulte: “Overachievers: How to Know and Choose the Best Plant for Your Space”

Dr. Andy Pulte, UT Department of Plant Sciences, will present “Overachievers: How to Know and Choose the Best Plant for Your Space,” on Thursday, **February 21**, at 7 pm, at BrightRidge Auditorium (formerly Johnson City Power Board), 2600 Boones Creek Rd. (Hwy 354), Johnson City. In this talk Dr. Pulte will help you sort through the endless stream of new plants on the market and focus on the important factors of personal style, and the mood you wish to create in your garden. You will learn about some of the most garden worthy plants, explore some gardening history, and get clued into what the scientific name of a plant can tell you about their garden worthiness.

Andrew J. Pulte grew up in the nursery industry in Grand Island, NE. He received his bachelors of science in horticulture from the University of Nebraska in December 2000. Following graduation he worked first for the National Arbor Day Foundation in the education department. This was followed by work at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. While at the zoo Andy was in charge of all recruitment and training for the zoo’s 650 full-time and seasonal employees. Andy received a Masters Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. in the area of public horticulture. His current responsibilities include, teaching, advising and coordination of the UT Plant Sciences undergraduate program. His additional responsibilities include the CASNR scholarship committee and assisting UT Gardens programming. Andy has spoken widely to diverse audiences and his articles have been published in Fine Gardening, State by State Gardening and many other gardening publications. He is also an Internationally Certified Arborist.

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com) or visit <http://saps.us/>.

## Monthly Gardening Tasks – January & February

### January

#### Indoor

Once your poinsettias begin to languish, often it is best to add them to the compost pile (unless you choose to save and re-grow them).

Don't forget to water your succulents! Just because they like it on the dry side, it doesn't mean they don't need water. The lack of humidity in your home during the winter months can dry them out more than you think.

Keep a check on tropical plants like elephant ears, bananas, cannas, ginger, agaves, and Boston and Kimberly Queen ferns that you may have stored in an enclosed garage, basement or crawl space under the house. Carefully check them for water. They don't need to totally dry out, but they can easily be over-watered causing them to rot. Any rotting foliage should be removed to prevent further decay.

For some added color and fragrance during the bleak days on January and February, check out your local garden center for leftover paperwhite and amaryllis bulbs that are likely to be on sale now. Look for bulbs that are firm and have not sprouted.

Keep a check on stored garden produce such as potatoes, turnips, winter squash, apples and pears for bad spots that may lead to decay. Remove them and use those with small blemishes right away. Be sure the remaining produce is spread out to allow for good airflow.

Study seed catalogs if the cold days of winter seem unrelenting, and dream of lush, warmer days. the storm. Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion. Serious damage can be caused by heavy wet snow.

## **January- Outdoor**

In the event of wet snow, brush it off evergreens as it accumulates, or as soon as possible after the storm. Use a broom in an upward, sweeping motion. Serious damage can be caused by heavy wet snow.

Continue to keep the leaves off your lawn, especially on cool-season lawns, because they continue to photosynthesize during the winter.

Avoid using salt to melt snow and ice from your walks and driveway, as it can be harmful to your plants. Several environmentally friendly products are available at home improvement stores.

As long as the ground is not frozen, you can continue to plant new trees and shrubs, just tuck them in with a 2- or 3-inch layer of mulch. Remember to keep the mulch away from the trunk.

Pansies will benefit if you pinch off their withered and cold-damaged blooms.

## **February - Indoor**

Sow broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage seed indoors now or buy transplants in March. Harden them off before planting out in March.

Remove dust from your house plants by rinsing them in the shower.

Extend the life of your Valentine's Day flowers by changing the water daily and re-cutting the stems every couple of days, making sure foliage is kept above the water line.

## **Outdoor**

Bluebirds are already looking for a place to nest, so clean out your birdhouse soon. If you are in need of a good bluebird house, check out Homes for Bluebirds, Inc. at <http://danfinch.com/birds.htm>

Barrenwort (Epimedium) and Lungwort (Pulmonaria) will be in flower soon. Cut back last year's foliage before new growth appears.

Lenten rose (Helleborus orientalis) and its hybrids are one of the first plants to flower in the new year. A little cleanup makes a big difference when these winter beauties blossom.

For indoor forcing of blooms, cut branches of pussy willow, forsythia, flowering quince, redbud, and star and saucer magnolia. Choose stems with flower buds that have begun to swell. Cut them at an angle and place in water in a cool location in your home with indirect light.

Late February and March are good times to trim trees and shrubs.

Postpone pruning of spring-flowering and early summer-flowering shrubs like azaleas, forsythia, spirea, and mophead hydrangea until just after they flower.

Cut back monkey grass (Liriope) before new growth appears. Use a string trimmer for larger areas.

Spot-control weeds in a dormant warm-season lawn by pulling them or by applying a broadleaf weed control.

Apply dormant horticulture oil, such as Ultra-Fine, to fruit and nut trees to eliminate scale and other pests. It must be applied before spring growth appears.

Soil in Tennessee tends to be acidic. Have your soil tested to see if and how much lime is needed. Your local UT Extension office can provide you with instructions on how to proceed.

Green/English and sugar snap peas can be direct sown in the garden in February. In colder parts of the state, wait until the end of the month.

If your ornamental grasses, such as Miscanthus, Pennisetum, Mexican feather, switchgrass and muhly grass are looking tattered and blowing about the garden, cut them back 3 to 6 inches above the ground. You can also wait until March to do this.

Source: University of Tennessee Gardens, Knoxville

<https://ag.tennessee.edu/utg/Pages/monthlytasks.aspx>

## Amaryllis Care Instructions: How to Care for an Amaryllis

If you know how to care for an amaryllis (*Amaryllis* and *Hippeastrum*), you can replenish your bulb after flowering and guide the amaryllis through additional growing seasons. Growing amaryllis indoors does take work, but the result is beautiful, bell-shaped flowers to brighten up your home. Read these amaryllis care instructions for more information.



### Amaryllis Care Instructions for the First Flowering

Because the amaryllis produces such brilliantly-colored flowers, many people put them in their homes in the winter. Growing amaryllis indoors requires little of you during the first winter. The bulb will be ready to bloom in early winter, around November, and most stalks will produce two to four flowers. All you need to do is keep the amaryllis watered and out of harm.

### Tips on Growing Amaryllis Indoors After Flowering

Once your amaryllis flowers are gone for the season, it is time to learn how to care for an amaryllis in its replenishing stage. The bulb is depleted of minerals after flowering, but the stalks remain. By cutting off the tops of the stalks down while leaving the leaves, you can allow the amaryllis to begin its re-flowering process.

While growing amaryllis indoors, you should fertilize the plant every two to three weeks. You also will need to water the plant about twice a week. Other than that, be sure you keep the plant out of harm's way and out of direct sunlight during long portions of the day.

The next part of the amaryllis care instructions are the most time-consuming. Begin by putting your amaryllis outdoors in a shady area. For a couple of days, you need to move the amaryllis outdoors but in a shaded location. Put the amaryllis in the sunlight after a few days, and expose the amaryllis to more sunlight every day. One of the best tips on growing amaryllis you can heed is to set a buzzer to remind you when to get the amaryllis from the sun to avoid killing the plant.

### Directions for Amaryllis Rest Period

In the early fall when the amaryllis has become accustomed to being outdoors, slowly stop watering the plant. Cut back water gradually until the plant can survive on its own. As the leaves brown, cut them off to keep them from drawing nutrients from the plant.

The amaryllis should stay outdoors for two to three months until you can begin growing amaryllis indoors again. Begin watering the flower sometime in November and bring it in to re-flower once the temperature drops below 55 F. (13 C.). Using these tips on growing amaryllis, you can have an annual flowering plant in your home during the winter.

## Projects List

**Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park** Kingsport  
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net)

**Branch House Family Center** Blountville  
Margaret Woolery [margaret.woolery@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.woolery@gmail.com)  
Cynthia Johnson [cjohnson2785@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson2785@gmail.com)

**Carver Peace Gardens** Johnson City  
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 [nancyshilling@gmail.com](mailto:nancyshilling@gmail.com)

**Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden**  
Marcia Vandermause [mmvdvm@charter.net](mailto:mmvdvm@charter.net)  
Christine Barger [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com)

**Exchange Place Living History Farm** Kingsport  
Earl Hockin-Vegetable Garden [ehockin@yahoo.com](mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com)  
Dave Gostomski-Lawns, Trees, etc. [e3fan98@yahoo.com](mailto:e3fan98@yahoo.com)

**Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlathmoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathmoon1775@gmail.com)  
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 [dave\\_carla@chartertn.net](mailto:dave_carla@chartertn.net)

**Johnson City Medical Center** Johnson City  
**Woodridge Hospital**  
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 [voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net)  
**Quillen Rehabilitation**  
Carol Collins 423-639-0341 [ccollins47@comcast.net](mailto:ccollins47@comcast.net)

**Johnson City Public Library**  
"What's the Buzz" Pollinator Pathway  
Selena Harmon 423-328-3016 [selenaharmon1@gmail.com](mailto:selenaharmon1@gmail.com)

**Northeast State Community College**  
**Gardens to Degrees** Blountville  
Contact Chris Ramsey for details

**Rocky Mount Living History Site** Piney Flats  
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943-2392  
[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

**Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park** Elizabethton  
Project Leader: Open

**The Crumley House Therapeutic Garden** Limestone  
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 [pennyrutledge2@aol.com](mailto:pennyrutledge2@aol.com)

**Tipton Haynes Historic Site** Johnson City  
Vern Maddux [vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com](mailto:vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com)  
Betts Leach [BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

### NETMGA Yearly Projects List:

**Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo**  
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 [pennyrutledge2@aol.com](mailto:pennyrutledge2@aol.com)

**Kingsport MeadowView Home Show and Farm Show**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlathmoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathmoon1775@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Pepper Festival**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlathmoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathmoon1775@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Tomato Festival**  
Dennis Marshall 423-288-3675 [dmarshall@chartertn.net](mailto:dmarshall@chartertn.net)

***"Featured Project" will return in March/April Edition***

***"Chris's Corner" will return in March/April Edition***

**Feed the birds!**





### 2019 OFFICERS

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



## JANUARY 2019 Calendar of Events

### JAN 7 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:00pm; at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

### JAN 12-13 2019 Farm Expo

10:00am-6:00pm & 1:00-6:00pm. Ron Ramsey Agriculture Center. Contact: Doug Hilton @ [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com) or John Hitchcock @ [jghitchcock@comcast.net](mailto:jghitchcock@comcast.net)

### JAN 12 Small Fruit Production with Steve & Tiffany Stanley

10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.

### JAN 17 SAPS Meeting – Presented by Joe Lamp’l

7:00pm, “No-Till Gardening” at 7 p.m. at Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport. Information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com), or visit <http://saps.us/>.

### JAN 19 Vegetables 101 with Earl Hockin

10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.

### JAN 19 Winter Garden Seminar at Warriors’ Path State Park in Kingsport

10:00am – 12:00pm. “Ecology in the Residential Landscape” Margie Hunter, author of *Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee*, will share her wisdom and knowledge of our native plants, their habits and habitats. Meet at Recreation Bldg. Cost: \$5. Registration: <https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/register/30th-annual-winter-garden-seminar-WPSP-2019>. Information: 423-239-8531.

### JAN 22 Gardening in a Changing Climate

1:00 – 4:00pm. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Cost: \$44-Member/\$49-Non-member. Registration required: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA18-Gardening-in-a-Changing-Climate>

### JAN 24 Winter Plants of Interest

1:00 – 4:00pm. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Cost: \$34-Member/\$39-Non-member. Registration required: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA18-Winter-Plants-of-Interest>

### JAN 26 Worm Composting Workshop

9:00 – 11:00am. Knoxville Botanic Gardens and Arboretum. Cost: \$10-Member/\$15-Non-member. Registration required <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/worm-composting-workshop-19/>

### JAN 27 Orchid Workshop at UT Gardens

2:00 – 4:30pm. This workshop will introduce some of the most popular genera of orchids and explore the growth requirements of these beauties so that you can successfully grow them at home. Instructor: John Tullock. Cost: Garden member \$35/nonmember \$45. Fee includes one tropical orchid plant. Pre-registration is required: [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1554&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1554&SINGLESTORE=true)

## FEBRUARY 2019 Calendar of Events

### FEB 2 Jump Start Seed Swap and Pollinator Day

9:00am – 12:00pm. Memorial Park Community Building, 510 Bert St, Johnson City, TN.  
423-283-5821

### FEB 2 Microgreens at UT Gardens

1:00 – 3:00pm. Microgreens may be tiny, but they pack a mega punch of nutrients and flavor! Come learn how to grow these miniature delicacies in your home or garden. We'll cover which seeds to grow and how to get the best results and we'll send you home with your own growing tray to try at home. Garden member \$35/nonmember \$45. Pre-registration is required:

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1588&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1588&SINGLESTORE=true)

### FEB 3 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.

### FEB 3 Outdoor Bonsai for Beginners at UT Gardens

2:00 – 4:00pm. A make & take workshop to demonstrate how to make a bonsai out of a nursery-grown dwarf Cypress tree. Participants will then create their own bonsai tree to take home. Training pot, tree, bonsai soil, and wire will be provided. Registration is limited to 18 participants. Garden member \$35/nonmember \$45. Pre-registration is required: [https://](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1556&SINGLESTORE=true)

[secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1556&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1556&SINGLESTORE=true)

### FEB 4 NETMGA Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet

6:00pm – Doors open for networking and fellowship; 6:30pm Dinner. Please bring your family or a friend and one or two of your favorite covered dishes to share. Ron Ramsey Agricultural Building at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

### FEB 5 Growing & Using Culinary Herbs

1:00 – 3:00pm. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Cost: \$34-Member/\$39-Non-member. Registration required:

<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA18-Growing--Using-Culinary-Herbs>

### FEB 7 Herb Saplings Meeting

7:00pm; Exchange Place in Kingsport. Guest Speaker: Reeda Tate

### FEB 9 Seed Starting with Melissa Hale

10:30am. Mize Farm & Garden, 251 Old Gray Station Rd., Gray. Admission is free; space is limited so please register at 423-467-2300.

### FEB 9 Winter Naturalists' Rally 2019 at Roan Mountain State Park Conference Ctr

9:30am. Cost: \$10 for non-members only. Contact: Friends of Roan Mountain: 423-772-3500, [www.friendsofroanmtn.org](http://www.friendsofroanmtn.org) or Rally website: <https://rbroadwell.wixsite.com/2019-winter-rally>

## FEBRUARY 2019 Calendar of Events

### FEB 21 SAPS Meeting

7:00pm. Guest Speaker: Dr. Andy Pulte, UT Department of Plant Sciences, will present "Overachievers: How to Know and Choose the Best Plant for Your Space." At BrightRidge Power Company (Johnson City Power Board), 2600 Boones Creek Road (2<sup>nd</sup> entrance), Johnson City. Information phone 423-348-6572 or email [sapsinfo@embarqmail.com](mailto:sapsinfo@embarqmail.com)

### FEB 23 Adopt a Tree at Warriors' Path State Park

10:00am – 12:00pm. You can make a big difference for our future! Help us bring "re-leaf" to Northeast Tennessee by planting tomorrow's forests. For every tree seedling you plant, you will also get one to take home, to plant in your own neighborhood. Come early because supplies of trees are limited! Contact: 423-239-6786; Email: [marty.silver@tn.gov](mailto:marty.silver@tn.gov)

### FEB 27 Tool Sharpening Workshop at UT Gardens

2:00 – 4:30pm. Make sure your tools are in good working order for this year's growing season in this hands-on class with our garden machine guru, Ben Cordes. Learn best practice for keeping your tools clean and sharp for longevity and functionality. Garden member \$20/ nonmember \$30. Pre-registration is required: [https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1555&SINGLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1555&SINGLESTORE=true)

### FEB 28 Learning From Trees

4:00 – 6:00pm. North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville. Cost: \$12-Member/\$17-Non-member. Registration required: <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA18-Learning-From-Trees>

