



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 17, Issue 4 Jul-Aug 2020

## Summer Is Here!!

During these uncertain times (are you tired of hearing this phrase) we have had the opportunity to plant gardens and flower beds. Many local nurseries have re-opened to foot traffic so go visit and find something new for your garden; but be sure to follow the guidelines and safety requests when you go. Some are limiting number of customers, some require wearing a mask, some do not allow pets, etc. If you are uncertain, call before you go.

CEUs for 2020 are in progress, though most are online through webinars. Some of those are reflected in this newsletter, but explore the internet. You might also find some recorded training on YouTube.



## 2020 MG Class

August 6, 2020- November 19, 2020  
Thursday evenings 6:00pm to 8:30pm  
UT-TSU Extension Office  
140 Spurgeon Lane  
Blountville, Tennessee 37617

Fee: \$185

**Registration Deadline: August 1, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 **class size is limited to 25.**  
Applications available at [www.netmga.net](http://www.netmga.net)

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2020 MG Class Information
- NETMGA August Meeting
- Featured Project: Church Hill Senior Center
- Featured Project: Exchange Place
- CEU Opportunities
- And More!

## **NETMGA General Membership Meeting**

We are delighted to invite you to a General Membership meeting on **Aug. 3, 2020** at 6:00pm at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center. We will be practicing Social Distancing at the meeting.

Our speaker will be Margie Hunter, author of "Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee"; she will discuss methods for using native plants in our gardens.

Ms. Hunter is a member of Tennessee Native Plant Society and Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council, as well as volunteering with the Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage in the Smokies. A graduate of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont's Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certificate Program, Margie is a founding board member of the Tennessee Naturalist Program and helped develop the course curriculum and teaches some of the classes.

She was named 2017's Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. Ms. Hunter is a member of the Great Smoky Mountains 900 miler club. She is also a long-time volunteer at Nashville's Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. You can read about her accomplishment in her blog: <https://hikinginthesmokies.wordpress.com>

After her presentation, there will be a question and answer period and her book, "Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee", will be available for purchase. The cost is \$30, which includes tax. It is also available on Amazon. For more information on her book, check out her website at: [www.gardeningwithnativeplants.com](http://www.gardeningwithnativeplants.com)

**Per UT guidelines, seating at the RRAC is limited to 50 people. If you plan to come, please click the following link and sign up via Sign-up Genius:**  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094fa4aa2aa3ff2-netmga>

The following are Guidelines for attending the Margie Hunter's presentation on "Gardening with the Native Plants of Tennessee" on August 3rd at the RRAC:

1 - All persons entering the Ag Center will have their temperature taken with a No-Contact Infrared Thermometer. Your temp is your personal business and will not be discussed with anyone else.

2 - Masks are required per UT directives. You must wear a mask to enter the building and continue to wear one during Ms. Hunter's lecture.

3 - Tables and the general meeting area will be sanitized by Program Committee members before members arrive at the Ag Center.

If you want to bring a bottle of water, you are welcome to do so but you must take it with you when you leave. There will be no trash cans available.

**ZOOM option:** There will be an option to view Ms. Hunter's presentation that evening via Zoom. A link for the meeting will be emailed the day of the presentation.

We are looking forward to a very informative and fun presentation!!

## Judith (Jude) Prince Gilbert Obituary

Judith (Jude) Prince Gilbert, 73, passed unexpectedly to be with our Lord on May 23, 2020. Jude was born July 7, 1946 in Portland, Maine and grew up in Westbrook, Maine where she graduated from Westbrook High School in 1965. She also attended the University of Maine and the Portland School of Fine Arts in 1966/1967. She married Duane L. Gilbert, Sr. of North Anson, Maine on July 3, 1966. After living in Scarborough and Gray, Maine; she and Duane built their beautiful dream log home into the side of a mountain in Rumford Point, Maine in 1977. This is where, in addition to art, her love of gardening and stonework began. Jude was an amazing artist; her medium of choice was oils. She was drawn to painting sailors, ships, horses and ducks. Her Victorian ceramic Santas adorned our mantels every Christmas. Her love of animals was extremely well known and Jude was the Supreme Animal Trainer in the family. In her younger years, she raised and showed her prized 17½ hand Palomino Stallion named Chiefy throughout New England. From 1962 to 1966 Jude and Chiefy held the New England Championship for Saddle Class and Parade Class for those 4 years! Interesting note: Chiefy had a companion named Dexter (½ Morgan...½ Quarterhorse); Chiefy would not load in the trailer until she loaded Dexter first; so, she had to load both horses for each show and put Dexter in a stall during the competition. Jude also taught herself to play Classical Guitar; she had an amazing voice and loved to sing and play timeless songs by Joan Baez and the Carpenters. Jude was President of the Doberman Rescue League in Maine for 10 years and President of the BMW Club as well while in Maine.

In 2004, Jude and Duane made the big move to a State and Town they both loved, Elizabethton, Tennessee! Jude's first order of business was to beautify their new home and build the most amazing stone, rock and brick gardens, while Duane was completely remodeling the house itself. At the same time they trapped, spayed/neutered/released 29 cats while keeping another 7 as pets because they were too friendly to survive in the wild. This all occurred during their first 5 years in Tennessee. After this Jude went to work for the first time outside the home at Lowe's and remained employed there for the next 8 years.

For Jude, one of her greatest accomplishments was becoming a Master Gardener! Jude met many of her best friends through plants; she truly enjoyed designing gardens and gardening. In her capacity as Master Gardener, she maintained gardens at Sycamore Shoals, Tipton Haynes, Johnson City Medical Center. She also designed, built and maintained the flower garden at the front of Brick Christian Church.

Jude is survived by her husband of 54 years, Duane L. Gilbert, Sr CMfgE of Elizabethton, TN; her daughter and son-in-law DRs. Kimberly Farr and Dominic DePatsy of Falmouth, ME; her son Duane L. Gilbert Jr. of Silicon Valley, CA. Jude is also survived by 7 grandchildren; Logan Gilbert of Boston, MA; Hayden Farr, Mason Farr, Nikko DePatsy, Luka DePatsy and Rocco Depatsy from Falmouth, ME; Allison Farr of Boston, MA; sister-in-law Darla Gilbert Pickett of Skowhegan, ME; niece Trisha Austin and her husband Harvey Austin of Skowhegan, ME.

Judith is predeceased by her parents, Alfred S. Prince and Margaret H. Prince of Westbrook, ME.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE is being planned at JUDE'S HOME gardens on July 25, 2020. Details will be sent soon.

## **Membership – Final Reminder**

Have you paid your 2020 Membership? It's not too late...but there will be a late fee! Dues for 2020 are now \$25. Please note that this is your FINAL opportunity to pay 2020 dues and remain a member of NETMGA. Dues must be paid by August 10<sup>th</sup>! After that date those who have not paid 2020 dues plus late fee will be dropped from the membership list and will no longer receive informational emails from UT Extension, NETMGA Communications, and will be dropped from the Newsletter mailing list.

Contact Mary Cain at 423-361-0223 or [cainm01@yahoo.com](mailto:cainm01@yahoo.com).

**NOTE to All Members: since everyone must have email to enter volunteer hours and CEUs there will be no more mailed copies of the newsletter.**

## **Chris's Corner**

July/August 2020

Hope your gardening is off to a successful start. Gardening is absolutely a great way to relieve stress and get our minds off the news. Just to give you an update – University of Tennessee Extension suspended all events, meetings, and programs through July 31. Even though all Face-to-Face meetings have been cancelled, our office will coordinate with county government to re-open soon. When we have a plan for re-opening and how we will operate, I will send out an email with the details.

Fortunately, we have the virtual world to keep connected and continue to learn. I hope that you have had an opportunity to join one of the Zoom online educational programs. These online meetings do count for CEU credit. These programs will continue as we hope to start a gradual re-opening of normal activities. This process may be slow, so be patient. Take every opportunity to join in an online meeting. If you have trouble joining an online Zoom meeting, let me know and I will help you get connected. Happy Gardening!

## **Please Note:**

**There will be no SAPS or Herb Saplings Meetings in July or August**

**There will be NO Tomato Fest in 2020.**

We cannot hold the Tomato Fest this year since the Farmers Market is not allowing any sampling/eating to occur on site

## CEU Opportunities

The following is an excerpt from the TEMG July eBlast Newsletter.

### **What Fun (and educational) Digital TEMG Events are Coming Up?**

**July 7<sup>th</sup>**- Tuesday Topics in Horticulture- Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, our apiculture specialist will be sharing about tips and tricks for establishing pollinator gardens as well as how bees use these plantings!

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** -TEMG Friday Focus from Jackson, TN- join Celeste and the Madison County folks for a visit to the UT Gardens in Jackson. Consider this your virtual Summer Celebration!

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** - Western Region MG Planning Meeting- join folks from around the Western region for a visit about this crazy year of 2020 and plans for fall as well as our 2021 Western Region Conference in Clarksville

**July 31<sup>st</sup>** - TEMG Friday Focus from Chattanooga, TN- join Tom and the Hamilton County folks for a visit to some great food production and pollinator gardens and area projects live from Chattanooga!

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** - Friday Focus Live Zoom Session- Location To Be Announced

**Missed the Registration Link??** Here is the Google Form to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/jCnTR2qi4HxWp5EH7>

If you missed any of our previous Friday Zoom sessions, here are the links to the recording on our YouTube page.

May 8th in Knoxville:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzeWcz0Mnwc&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B\\_oHDVbLaJxAol1iQcZ63&index=2&t=2474s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzeWcz0Mnwc&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B_oHDVbLaJxAol1iQcZ63&index=2&t=2474s)

May 22nd in Greeneville:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bPIC37bl2M&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B\\_oHDVbLaJxAol1iQcZ63&index=3&t=15s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bPIC37bl2M&list=PL1yNe3Yb9E34B_oHDVbLaJxAol1iQcZ63&index=3&t=15s)

June 5th in Murfreesboro: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNHk9nlvb80&feature=youtu.be>

June 19th in Memphis: <https://youtu.be/HK2OuGSSBFU>

For other opportunities:

- Check out the Master Gardeners throughout Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Georgia, etc.
- Look at other Extension Office's offerings
- Check out YouTube videos

**Calendar of Events** will return when in-person seminars and workshops resume.

## ***“Featured Project” Church Hill Senior Center Garden***

The Church Hill Senior Center Garden is beginning its second decade of growing for the community. This pesticide free and compost based raised bed vegetable, small fruit, and herb garden is located on Main Street in Church Hill – right next to the police station. All of the vegetables, small fruits and herbs produced go directly back to the community – the daily Senior Center lunch program and the food pantry run by Of One Accord Ministry. In a “normal” year, the garden hosts educational sessions for the youth of the community.



With the changes that have occurred this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the senior center has temporarily closed its doors, but the food pantry is open and overwhelmed with new clientele. They are anxiously awaiting any fresh produce that can be provided to them. The CHSC garden has spring crops planted and will continue to try to help provide for those in need during these trying times.

As avid gardeners, we all have the ability to help those less fortunate during this crisis. At your own home gardens, please consider planting an extra row for your local food pantry or charitable organizations with kitchens that feed the hungry. We have the knowledge and skill to grow for our own use, but now is the time to truly grow for the good of your surrounding community.

The Church Hill garden is actively seeking new members since our number has been diminished by out of state moves, chronic illness (not COVID!), and changes in interests. If you are interested in taking a closer look at the garden, please contact us at [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com) and we can arrange a time for you to visit. Social distancing is a big factor in our work right now, but we have the advantage of fresh air and ample space to make sure that these requirements are met.



Stay safe, stay strong, and remember to share the earth’s blessings.

Please note: photos are from 2019 – we are no longer taking close group photos at this time!



## ***“Featured Project” Exchange Place Project Report***



The Exchange Place Historical farm on Orebank Rd. in Kingsport is an 1850’era historical site with buildings dating from the era. It is currently part of the Netherland Inn/Exchange Place Historical society. There is no connection with Federal, state or city governments. It is financially supported strictly through fund raising events like the Spring Garden Fair and through donations. It is maintained strictly by volunteers including but not limited to Master Gardeners. The primary contributions by master gardeners is to maintain a demonstration vegetable garden, a pollinator garden, a native plant garden, to help with building and grounds maintenance and to help during the fund-raising events.

Each year in the demonstration garden we grow some heirloom vegetables and some new hybrids. Additionally, each year we grow one or two edibles that are unfamiliar to many people. Things such as peanuts, black rice, yard long beans, Papalo herb. This year we have a Yacon plant. Yacon is a tuber from the Andes, which is edible raw or cooked. It is a source of Yacon syrup. It is very crisp and sweet tasting. It is said to help regulate blood sugar levels, lower bad cholesterol and help with weight loss. The leaves can be used to make Yacon tea.

There is also an opportunity for master gardeners to help create and maintain a field crop garden in which cotton, tobacco, sorghum and other field crops are grown to display examples of the plants that were grown for monetary purposes, rather than food supply for the families.

Master gardeners work on a once a week basis throughout the year in the gardens and doing maintenance tasks.



We are always looking for more volunteers. Those who volunteer in the gardens get to choose what vegetables and flowers are grown in the gardens. Additionally, they can enjoy some of the vegetables grown. Excess vegetables are donated to local food banks.

Master gardeners are involved in maintaining the gardens, doing practical building repairs, helping out during events such as the Spring Garden Fair, Fun Fest, Fall Festival, Witches Wynd, and Christmas in the Country.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Earl Hockin, [ehockin@yahoo.com](mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com).

## 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)

### **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)

### **Rocky Mount Living History Site**

Piney Flats

Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943-2392

[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

### **Steele Creek Park**

Bristol, TN

Robin Feirabend [Feierabe@ETSU.edu](mailto:Feierabe@ETSU.edu)

### **Sycamore Shoals State Historic Site**

Elizabethton

Carol Ludiker 423-707-0026 [jaxlud26@gmail.com](mailto:jaxlud26@gmail.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)

### **Unicoi County Hospital**

Erwin

Gina Clark [gclarkx4@gmail.com](mailto:gclarkx4@gmail.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)

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



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**Monthly Gardening Tasks – July & August**  
<https://ag.tennessee.edu/utg/Pages/monthlytasks.aspx>

**Feed the birds!**



