



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 17, Issue 5 Sep-Oct 2020

## Fall Is Almost Here!!

We have made it to September, and Fall is coming soon. Nurseries have many fall plants such as mums and pansies. If you prefer perennials you can also find many fall blooming plants such as asters, hardy mums, and windflowers (Japanese Anemone). There are still precautions when shopping so if you aren't sure what the guidelines are, call before you go.

CEUs for 2020 are still available, some onsite and some online. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for possibilities. You might find some pre-recorded training available, too.



## NETMGA Board Meeting

The NETMGA Board Meeting will be **Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**, 6:00pm., at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NETMGA October General Membership Meeting
- Featured Project: Rocky Mount Living History Site
- Featured Project: Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park
- Chris' Corner
- Flowers to Grow for a Gorgeous Garden Beyond Labor Day
- CEU Opportunities
- And More!

## **NETMGA General Membership Meeting**

Please join us for a General Meeting on **Oct 5th**, 2020 at 6:00pm at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center.

Our speaker will be Jeremy Stout, City of Bristol Arborist and Manager of the Nature Center at Steele Creek Park. The subject of his presentation is "Edible and Medicinal Trees of the Appalachians". Jeremy has a BS in Biology that he received from ETSU, where he went on to earn a MS focusing on vertebrate paleontology. In 2018, Jeremy Stout received the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association's Four Star Public Relations Award for his participation in the nature themed show, "Steele Creek Explorer", that can be watched on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL67C8D0EE7F5A39F4>

The University of Tennessee has set out some rules for in person meetings. We expect all our members to comply with these guidelines to ensure a safe and enjoyable meeting. Here is a list of the requirements:

1. Please wear a mask when you enter the Ag Center.
2. You will be asked to sign a brief questionnaire about your temperature.
3. We may be required to take your temperature and if it exceeds the upper limits you will be asked to leave.
4. The seating area will be sanitized before and after the classes. Everyone must maintain a distance of 6 feet so you can only sit in an assigned seat. This also pertains to families, no one may sit next to another person.
5. No food or drink is to be brought into the building. You may bring in a bottle of water but you must take it with you when you leave. There will be no trash cans available.

The meeting will also be available to all NETMGA members on ZOOM. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Teresa Gaffner at: [Taraq8008@gmail.com](mailto:Taraq8008@gmail.com)

### **Please Note:**

**There will be no SAPS or Herb Saplings Meetings in September or October**

**There will be NO Fall Festival at Exchange Place in 2020.**

## ***“Featured Project” Rocky Mount Living History Site***

With Covid-19 Rocky Mount has been closed to the public for months, but is now open by appointment and a mask required. However, the Master Gardeners have been busier than ever. Maintenance is always top on our list, if we could only grow plants as good as we do weeds.

New projects and enhancing others have kept us busy the last several months. One new project that was funded by Master Gardener Grant is a butterfly garden. Not only filled with the needed plants but signage to tell you about the plants and types of butterflies.



Another project was replacing a failing retaining wall and adding a fence for safety. Those blocks weight 42 pounds, a great workout for anyone. Who needs a gym membership when we garden? The second part of this project is adding a grand garden above the wall. We are turning a sore site at Rocky Mount into a small paradise. Our vegetable garden is feeding the staff, board members and visitors. The herb garden and Mrs. Cobb cutting garden are absolutely Better Home and Garden quality.



We are working with naturist and several groups to have nature trails thru our woods and meadows. We also are putting plans in place to be a local site to see native plants in their elements. We will be planting hundreds, even thousands of native plants that will make a heaven for pollinators. Plus, the task of eliminating invasive plants over 30 plus acres. Anyone have a secret to ridding acres of kudzu?

The Master Gardeners are also taking care of the new addition acres across the road with trees to block homes being built and a path to the original spring of the Cobbs. A future project is to build a period spring house on this spring.

Master Gardeners are providing input in building a Farmers Market pavilion; a place to sell our products and other crafts made at Rocky Mount.

We also have placed two bee hives on the property, far away from the public. In about a year you will be able to buy Rocky Mount Honey. Got to get the hives established.

The Master Gardeners have been very busy in this Covid-19 climate, it great to get out and garden. For more information about the Master Gardener project at Rocky Mount Living History Site contact Don Davis at 423-854-0152, cell 423-943-2392, or [donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com).

## ***“Featured Project”*** ***Warriors’ Path State Park Boundless Playground***

Practicing social distancing, we held the Spring Day of Caring at Warriors’ Path Darrell’s Dream Playground one month later than usual.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Gwyn Duncan, 423-239-0460 or [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net).



## Chris' Corner

September/October 2020

We continue to be faced with unprecedented times. This Coronavirus Covid-19 Outbreak has affected all of our lives to a level no one could have predicted several months ago. Due to the continued impact on daily activities and MG projects, Volunteer Hours and CEUs will not be required for 2020. Although not required, if you have volunteer hours or CEUs, I would encourage you to report these hours, as they can still be impactful on our local and state Master Gardener reports. After all, the documentation of community impact is what makes the funding for the UT Extension Master Gardener Program possible. So PLEASE REPORT ANY HOURS you have been able to complete. There are many CEU opportunities available VIRTUALLY (by Zoom). If you need more information about these educational opportunities, please call us at 423-574-1919.

We will continue to keep you updated on the UT Extension Re-opening guidelines and their impact on Master Gardener Projects. Currently, you can participate in a Master Gardener project as long as you follow CDC guidelines. This includes keeping a 6-foot distance and wearing a mask when you cannot properly socially distance. Call our office if you have any questions about projects.

I hope you will be able to participate in the October NETMGA meeting! Check the notice in the newsletter for details about this meeting.

## Flowers to Grow for a Gorgeous Garden Beyond Labor Day

Why should summer have all the glory? Looking for something to have in your fall garden besides mums, pansies, and violas?

### Sweet Alyssum

Sweet Alyssum has dainty pink or white flowers that look beautiful tumbling over the edges of containers or spilling over walls. Despite its delicate appearance, it's actually quite hardy and will tolerate a few light frosts.

**Varieties to try:** Snow Princess, Dark Knight



### Marigolds

These hardy annuals can take cool nights and even withstand a light frost. They bloom continuously from planting until a hard freeze, so you really get a lot of bang for your buck. Snap off the seed heads after they bloom and dry for more flowers (and you can save and dry the seeds to plant next spring!).

**Varieties to try:** Cottage Red, Mission Giant

### **Black-eyed Susan**

These gold flowers with brown or black button centers are ideal for fall gardens. Black-eyed Susans usually bloom from mid-summer to mid-fall for months of reliable color.

**Varieties to try:** American Gold Rush, Goldsturm



### **Asters**

These perennials kick into high gear when everything else in the garden is beginning to fade. They come in shades of blue, lavender, pink, and purple, and start blooming around the same time that mums do.

**Varieties to try:** Bluebird, October Skies

### **Beautyberry**

These fast-growing shrubs are beautiful in every season! Some boast dark purple foliage. Beautyberry flowers in spring or summer, and the pretty purple berries appear in fall and last into winter.

**Varieties to try:** Purple Pearls, Pearl Glam



### **Heuchera**

Grown primarily for its colorful foliage, heuchera, also called coral bells, is a cold-tolerant perennial that comes in every shade from deepest burgundy to lime green and everything in between. The stunning, frilly leaves provide pops of color long after your other annuals have faded.

**Varieties to try:** Dolce Cherry Truffles, Citronelle

### **Helenium**

Helenium was once used as snuff, earning its nickname "sneezeweed." This flower comes in deep saturated shades of red, orange, and yellow, and blooms late summer to fall. Butterflies adore this plant. Place it at the back of borders for late season color.

**Varieties to try:** Mardi Gras, Butter Pat





### **False Sunflower (Heliopsis)**

With yellow petals and brown centers, these pretty sturdy plants resemble their namesakes--but they're perennial! Bees and butterflies flock to this plant.

**Varieties to try:** Tuscan Gold, Tuscan Sun

### **Snapdragon**

This upright annual looks great in mixed containers, providing vertical interest. Some types are trailing. Snapdragons come in almost every color and don't mind the cold, blooming until a hard freeze.

**Varieties to try:** Butterfly Bronze, Candy Showers



### **Lobelia**

Lobelia has a lovely, cascading form that works well in pots and hanging baskets. Pair it with the bright oranges of fall for a striking planting combination. It prefers cooler weather, so if you planted earlier in the season and it waned over the summer, trim it back slightly to encourage branching and fall blooms.

**Varieties to try:** Laguna Dark Blue, Laguna Ultraviolet

### **Autumn Sedum**

Sedum, also called stonecrop, provides nice vertical interest to the garden. Butterflies love this plant, and it's an important source of late-season food for many different pollinators. The cut blooms last for weeks in a vase.

**Varieties to try:** Lemonjade, Firecracker



### **Russian Sage**

Russian sage produces tiny, purple flowers and silvery-green foliage from midsummer into fall, even in dry conditions. It's a tough perennial that tolerates even poor soils, too. Hummingbirds love it!

**Varieties to try:** Denim N Lace, Rocketman

## 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)

**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 Woodridge Hospital** Johnson City  
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)

**Farm Expo**  
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 – September & October**  
<https://ag.tennessee.edu/utg/Pages/monthlytasks.aspx>

**Feed the birds!**



## SEPTEMBER 2020 Calendar of Events

**Covid-19 has had effects on events. Please note that some programs, events and tours may require masks for participants. Before going you might want to confirm that event has not been cancelled.**

\*Melody's Monday Musings, Big Spring Master Gardener Association, UT Extension, Greene County

6:30pm. All classes held via Zoom. Pre-registration is required. Information & registration:

<http://www.bsmga.com/register-now.html>

\*\*Adult Education Classes at The North Carolina Arboretum, Online, Onsite and On Demand!

Information: <https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/adult-education-classes/>

SEP 11 Cold Frames for Season Extension, UT Gardens

12:30pm. Learn how to extend your growing season by building cold frames. This class will explore the use of cold frame and offer several design ideas for the home gardener. We will review the cold frames in the Helping Hands Kitchen Garden. Instructor: Derrick Stowell This class will be held via Zoom. Participants will receive a meeting link upon registration. Register here: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3925498>. This class is offered free of charge.

SEP 14 NETMGA Board Meeting

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

SEP 18 Growing Lettuce Indoors

12:30pm. This class will explore different lettuce cultivars and how to grow them, ways to grow lettuce outside and also indoors. This class will focus on growing lettuce in soil, but will briefly touch on the subject of hydroponics. Resources for purchasing seeds and other items needed for growing lettuce successfully will be provided to class participants. Instructor: Derrick Stowell This class will be held via Zoom. Participants will receive a meeting link upon registration. Register here: <https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3912590>. This class is offered free of charge.

SEP 18 Soil Preparation and Using Cover Crops, UT Gardens, Knoxville

12:00-1:00pm. Cost: \$40 Garden member/\$50 nonmembers. Information & registration:

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1940&SIN\\_GLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1940&SIN_GLESTORE=true)

SEP 25 "Mysterious Mushrooms" at Warriors' Path State Park

8:00-9:00pm. Discover the hidden world of mushrooms in this slide-illustrated talk. Meet at the Open Air Chapel, or pool entrance if it is raining. Contact: Marty Silver at

423-239-6786. <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=mushrooms-9-25>

SEP 25 Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter

12:30pm. This class will look at how to prepare your garden for the winter, ways to help improve soil for next year's garden, ways to help manage any pest or disease issues that you noticed during the season, and will give you tasks to help ensure your spring garden is ready to start growing next season. Instructor: Derrick Stowell. This class will be held via Zoom. Participants will receive a meeting link upon registration. Register here:

<https://utgardens.wildapricot.org/event-3925534>. This class is offered free of charge.

# OCTOBER 2020 Calendar of Events

Covid-19 has had effects on events. Please note that some programs, events and tours may require masks for participants. Before going you might want to confirm that event has not been cancelled.

\*Melody's Monday Musings, Big Spring Master Gardener Association, UT Extension, Greene County

6:30pm. All classes held via Zoom. Pre-registration is required. Information & registration:

<http://www.bsmga.com/register-now.html>

\*\*Adult Education Classes at The North Carolina Arboretum, Online, Onsite and On Demand!

Information: <https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/adult-education-classes/>

OCT 2 "Plants and Pollinators" at Warriors' Path State Park

8:00-9:00pm. Enjoy a slide-illustrated talk on native wildflowers, and the "busy bugs" who help them thrive. After the slide show, we'll have a "help the pollinators" contest for the children! Meet at the Open Air Chapel, or pool entrance if it's raining. Contact: Marty Silver at 423-239-6786.

<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=plants-pollinators-10-2>

OCT 3 Fall Bird Walk at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Information: 423-543-5808.

OCT 5 NETMGA Membership Meeting

6:00 pm. Ron Ramsey Agricultural Regional Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane. Blountville, TN. The meeting will also be available to all NETMGA members on ZOOM.

OCT 10 Fall Bird Walk at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Information: 423-543-5808.

OCT 17 Winterizing your Garden Beds with Ben Hunter

9:00am-12:00pm. Sycamore Shoals State Park. Information: 423-543-5808

OCT 17 Fall Bird Walk at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Information: 423-543-5808.

OCT 18 Gardening for Caterpillars, UT Gardens, Knoxville

1:00-3:00pm. Cost: Garden member \$35/nonmember \$45. Information & registration:

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1787&SIN\\_GLESTORE=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1787&SIN_GLESTORE=true)

OCT 24 Fall Bird Walk at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park

8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Information: 423-543-5808.

