



Official Publication

Master Gardener Thymes

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March Is Here; Spring Coming Soon!

Temperatures are warming up a bit, but as we know in NETN, we will have more cold days before warmth settles in for good. I heard peepers the other night. My Dad used to say that they would “go down” (go back down into the mud) 3 times before warm weather was here for good. The last few years they have “gone down” at least 10 times! I’m focusing on seed planting to be ready! How about you?

Now is a good time to further your knowledge, via Zoom webinars, and other online resources. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for possibilities.



NETMGA Board Meeting

The NETMGA Board Meeting will be **March 1st**, 6:00pm., via Zoom.

NETMGA APRIL 2021 MEMBERSHIP MEETING via ZOOM

The **April 12** General Membership Meeting will be via Zoom at 6:30pm, and will include a presentation by Joy Moore. See additional information in this newsletter.

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SAPS March Program via Zoom: Easy-to-Grow Fruit Crops



Dr. David Lockwood, UT Extension Specialist specializing in tree fruits, nuts and wine, will speak on "Easy-to-Grow Fruit Crops" in an online program, **March 18**, sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS). This program is free via Zoom, but preregistration is required. To register, see the SAPS web page: <http://saps.us/>. (Note: registration link will be available about March 5.) Registration deadline is noon on Thursday, March 18.

A popular speaker with professionals and home gardeners alike, Dr. Lockwood will provide guidance on which fruit crops are best adapted to our area and how best to plant and care for them, including variety/rootstock selections, any major limitations, and pest management challenges. He will focus on the most common tree fruit and small fruit crops, and, as time permits, venture into some of the lesser known ones. Bring your questions and learn from an expert how to make an edible landscape a reality.

David Lockwood was raised and worked on a fruit farm in Upstate New York near the south shore of Lake Ontario where his family grew apples, cherries, pears and prunes. He received his PhD from the University of Georgia and joined the faculty of the UT Department of Plant and Soil Sciences in 1973. He holds an 85%/15% split appointment in Extension at the UT and UGa. At UT he is responsible for developing and maintaining educational programs in tree fruit, small fruit, tree nut and fruit tree nurseries. In Georgia, his focus is on apples. Included in this effort are publication development, newsletters, meetings, mass media, personal communication and personal visits. He serves as a resource person for the county Extension staffs. He also is involved in applied research on fruit and nut crops on Research and Education Centers in Tennessee and Georgia. In addition, he has traveled and lectured extensively throughout the United States as well as in many foreign countries, including France, Italy, and Spain. Dr Lockwood is recognized as a grape specialist and wine connoisseur. He teaches the viticulture portion of "Grapes and Wines of the Mediterranean Region," a study abroad course conducted in Cortona, Italy.

NETMGA April General Membership Meeting via Zoom:

THE ROSE FAMILY

“A rose is a rose,
And was always a rose.
But the theory now goes
That the apple's a rose,
And the pear is, and so's
The plum. I suppose.
The dear only knows
What will next prove a rose.”
- Robert Frost 1927



Master Gardeners, please join on **April 12**, 2021 at 6:30pm for our General Meeting. Our speaker will Joy Moore and she will be talking about the diverse genera of the Rosacea family and their herbal and culinary uses. Joy is a very knowledgeable herbalist and will be answering questions after the program.

Joy Moore was a member of the first class of Master Gardeners in Northeast Tennessee. She is a Lifetime Tennessee Master Gardener, a founding member of the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and a volunteer with Exchange Place Living History Farm and Keep Kingsport Beautiful. She comes from a long line of gardeners and especially enjoys growing and learning about natives, herbs and heirloom plants.

NETMGA members will receive sign in information via email.

Cancellations:

Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair 2021 Canceled

After consulting with personnel from the Health Department and the Department of Agriculture, who strongly discouraged scheduling even outdoor events until vaccinations are wide spread, it is with heavy hearts that the Exchange Place Steering Committee has voted not to hold the Spring Garden Fair this year. We want to do our part to keep our community safe.

We will certainly miss seeing all of our old and new friends for whom purchasing plants at the Spring Garden Fair is a spring tradition. With luck we will be able to gather again in 2022. Please mark your calendars for Spring Garden Fair April 30 - May 1, 2022.

Note: The Spring Garden Fair is always held on the last full weekend of April with the exception of (the rare) Easter weekend or when Sunday falls on May 1.

Abingdon 2021 Garden Faire

Due to ongoing concerns about the coronavirus outbreak, the Washington County, VA Master Gardeners have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's event. <http://www.gardenfaire.net/>

SAPS April Program via Zoom: Creating a Native Pocket Meadow



Plant ecologist and garden educator Lisa Wagner, will present "Pocket Gardens - The Use of Native Plants in Small Spaces" on Thursday, **April 15**, at 7 pm in an online program sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS). This program is free via Zoom, but preregistration is required. To register, see the SAPS web page: <http://saps.us/>. (Note: registration link will be available about April 2.) Registration deadline is noon on Thursday, April 15.

"Pocket" meadows of native plants provide an attractive, low-maintenance, and wildlife-friendly alternative to traditional perennial plantings. Unlike larger meadow plantings, small, informal, and simply managed pocket borders can be tucked into a variety of spaces in your landscape, providing habitat and sustenance for pollinators and other insects, as well as being attractive landscape additions. Lisa will share her experiences with a variety of small meadow plantings using native Southeastern wildflowers and grasses and talk about how to manage them for four-season interest. She will also provide suggestions for native plants best suited for combining in informal meadow plantings in our region.

Lisa Wagner was the Director of Education at the South Carolina Botanical Garden, Clemson University for over 20 years. A plant ecologist by background (Ph.D. in Botany, UC Berkeley), she is interested in native plants, sustainable gardening, public education, and promoting habitat restoration, as well as being a passionate gardener. She now does frequent presentations and classes as a volunteer on a variety of topics. Her blog, Natural Gardening (www.naturalgardening.blogspot.com), reflects her observations about gardening and the natural world.

Chris' Corner

Chris's Corner will return soon! If you have any questions, call Chris at 423-646-9043.

“Featured Project”

Tipton Haynes State Historic Site

At Tipton Haynes State Historic Site, Master Gardeners maintain several gardens: wildflower/butterfly/pollinator gardens, a small kitchen garden, and what we call the slave garden.

In the front Nature and Herb gardens, our focus is variety and visual appeal for visitors to the site, AND for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Having been designated a Certified Monarch Waystation in 2014 we emphasize native plants and those that attract and/or serve as hosts for Monarchs and other caterpillars.

The Nature and Herb Gardens contain many plant varieties, including anise hyssop, aromatic aster, purple coneflower, orange coneflower, Tennessee coneflower, common milkweed, butterfly weed, blue anise sage, passion flower, pipe vine, and Prairie Coreopsis (to name a few). These plants provide a succession of blooms through the growing season that provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds and food for caterpillars.



Because of the heavy rains in February 2019 we lost many of our coneflowers, mountain mint plants, and other pollinator plants. In 2020 we successfully replanted the area with new mountain mint and turtlehead in one area; and planted beardtongue, 2 varieties of swamp milkweed, downy skullcap, salvia, and more coneflowers.

We began documenting the types and number of caterpillars in 2015. In 2020 we noted successful hosting of 100+ Monarch caterpillars and numerous Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars. We also spotted close to 4 dozen Monarch chrysalises (there were probably more that we didn't find!). Sadly, we saw no Gulf Fritillary caterpillars this year; perhaps because of the very late arrival of passionflowers' appearance.





The vegetable gardens at Tipton/Haynes consists of two small plots in the historical area. The Kitchen Garden is representative of a small garden near the house that would have grown those vegetables that need a little extra care and be handy for meal preparation. We emphasize heirloom varieties where we try using varieties grown in Thomas Jefferson's Monticello gardens. Colonel Tipton knew and corresponded with Jefferson, so we infer that maybe they exchanged gardening information.

We have some perennial plants: strawberries and rhubarb, and the herbs sage, oregano, lavender, and rosemary. Garlic is planted in the fall around the edges. In spring we plant broccoli and cabbage, onions, carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach, and chard. As it warms up, we add Heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and Scarlet runner beans.

The Slave Garden, as we call it, is located behind the restored slave cabin, home to George, the Haynes family's slave. It was usual for slaves to have a small garden to provide some of their own food. Historical information is scarce so we choose to plant vegetables that originated in Africa, such as okra, field peas, peanuts and watermelon, plus some New World plants that George might have adopted: potatoes and squash. This garden is fenced in a wattle style, using branches and tree trimmings, such as George might have used to keep out the wildlife.



Our emphasis in the kitchen and slave gardens is to display for the education of visitors to the historical site; we don't try to maximize production. We do produce quite a bit of food, though, which we share with the staff, but mostly we just have a good time.



We have a new opportunity in 2021! A new parking lot and median means a new place to plant! The Board has requested some winter color plants, plus we want to provide more food for pollinators and wildlife. MG work in this new area will begin, hopefully, in early to mid-May. Come join the fun! We welcome any Master Gardeners who are looking for a place to share fun and earn volunteer hours, please contact us! We typically work on Thursday, but are flexible if YOU want to help on another day. Contact: Vern at vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com or Betts at BettsL@aol.com.

“Featured Project”

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park



Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park is rich in history, and many people visit it each year. The community is very grateful for all the work master gardeners has done to add to the beauty of this park.

We are eager for warmer weather to arrive. We have several projects that will be underway as soon as it dries out well enough to work in the garden. Anyone who might like to help out can email Carol Ludiker at jaxlud26@gmail.com and she will keep you updated with work dates and times.

Here's what is planned:

- There are five raised beds in the kitchen garden. The wood has rotted out and urgently needs replacing. The wood in the butterfly garden will be replaced as well.
- We are putting a photo bench with in the butterfly garden with a stone path. This bench will need to be cemented in for safety reasons.
- Three tree stumps have been removed from the garden and those areas will need replanting.
- We hope to replace the chat paths inside the garden with stone; however, that has yet to be approved.

Friends of Sycamore Shoals State Park is a club and they are graciously paying for our projects this summer. I am also very excited to say that the friends of Sycamore Shoals will pay for individuals to attend the master gardener class. Applicants must live in or near Elizabethton and be willing to volunteer their hours at Sycamore Shoals butterfly garden. We will be going through an application process soon. As soon as I know the class dates I will pass them on to anyone who is interested.

We are very proud of the kitchen garden's raised beds and the pollinator garden which is also a raised bed, as they offer the opportunity for people who are in a wheel chair to have a share in gardening. A person can drive right up to the raised beds if so desired for easier access.

Carol Ludiker, Master Gardener Project Leader, looks forward to working with volunteers at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. Please email her at: jaxlud26@gmail.com.

Projects List

Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path State Park Kingsport
Gwyn Duncan 423-239-0460 geduncan@charter.net

Branch House Family Center Blountville
Margaret Woolery margaret.woolery@gmail.com

Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 nancyshilling@gmail.com

Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden
Marcia Vandermause mmvdm@charter.net
Christine Barger chscgarden@yahoo.com

Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Museum
Barbara Radice bradice@charter.net

Exchange Place Living History Farm Kingsport
Earl Hockin ehockin@yahoo.com

Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 dave_carla@chartertn.net

Johnson City Medical Center Woodridge Hospital Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net

Rocky Mount Living History Site Piney Flats
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Steele Creek Park Bristol, TN
Robin Feirabend Feierabe@ETSU.edu

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Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
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Betts Leach BettsL@aol.com

Unicoi County Hospital Erwin
Gina Clark gclarkx4@gmail.com

NETMGA Yearly Projects List:

Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 pennyrutledge2@aol.com

Farm Expo
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com

Kingsport Pepper Festival
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 howlathmoon1775@gmail.com

Kingsport Tomato Festival
Dennis Marshall 423-288-3675 dmarshall@chartertn.net

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



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Monthly Gardening Tasks – March & April
<https://ag.tennessee.edu/utg/Pages/monthlytasks.aspx>

Feed the birds!



MARCH and APRIL 2021 Calendar of Events

Covid-19 is still having an effect 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.

Monday Musings with Melody Rose, Greene County TN Extension

Information and Registration: <https://sites.google.com/utk.edu/mondaymusings/home>

North Carolina Arboretum Online Classes Schedule:

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

MAR 1 NETMGA Board Meeting via Zoom
6:00pm

MAR 6 Weed Wrangle at David Crockett Birthplace State Park
9:00am-12:00pm. Seeking volunteers for this nation-wide effort to fight invasive plant species in public parks. For details, see <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=weed-wrangle-2021>

MAR 6 Weed Wrangle at Warriors' Path State Park: Garlic Mustard Pull
1:00-4:00pm. Seeking volunteers for this nation-wide effort to fight invasive plant species in public parks. For details, see <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=weed-wrangle-at-warriors-path-garlic-mustard-pull-wpsp-2021>

MAR 9 Mysterious Mosses Lecture at Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum
6:00-7:00pm. Information and Registration: <http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/mysterious-mosses-lecture/>

MAR 13 Spring Flowering Tree & Shrub Walk at UT Gardens, Knoxville
9:00-11:00am. \$20 Garden members / \$25 Non-members. Information & Registration: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2218&SINGLESTORE=true

MAR 13-21 Organic Growers School-28th Annual Spring Conference-Online
Information and Registration: <https://organicgrowersschool.org/conferences/spring/>

MAR 18 SAPS Program via Zoom: Easy to Grow Fruit Crops
Information and Registration: <http://saps.us/>

MAR 20 Spring Hike-Wildflower Walk at Warriors' Path State Park
9:00am-12:00pm. For details, see <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=spring-wildflower-walk-21>

MAR 20 Beauty and Intrigue in the Bog at UT Gardens, Knoxville
10:00-11:30am. \$20 Garden members / \$25 Non-members. Information & Registration: https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2216&SINGLESTORE=true

- MAR 27 The New Perennial Movement with Dr. Andy Pulte at UT Gardens, Knoxville
10:00-11:30am. \$20 Garden members / \$25 Non-members. Information & Registration:
https://secure.touchnet.com/C21610_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=2233&SINGLESTORE=true
- APR 12 NETMGA General Meeting via Zoom
6:30pm Program. Speaker: Joy Moore, The Rose Family
- APR 15 SAPS Program via Zoom: Creating a Native Pocket Meadow
Information and Registration: <http://saps.us/>
- APR 16-18 42nd Annual Spring Nature Festival at Warriors' Path State Path
Friday Evening through Mid-Day Sunday. For details:
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=42nd-annual-spring-nature-festival-wpsp>
- APR 17 Annual Plant Auction at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park
9:00am-12:00pm. For details: <https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=annual-plant-auction-4-21>
- APR 24 2021 Spring Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally
Pre-registration is required. Information: <https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/2021-spring-rally>

