



Official Publication

Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 18, Issue 4 Jul-Aug 2021

Summer!

It's really here! Summer! How is your summer garden growing? While we've had a lot rain we've also had days when watering is necessary. If you don't use a soaker hose (recommended) be sure to water in the morning, if possible, at the base of the plant rather than over the top of the plants. This will ensure the roots are getting the water they need and will help to prevent development of mildew and/or black spot.

Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for possibilities to learn, and earn CEUs.



NETMGA Board Meeting

The NETMGA Board Meeting will be **July 12th**, 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

NETMGA General Membership Meeting

The August General Membership Meeting will be **August 2nd**, at 6:30pm in the **Roseland Bldg. at Exchange Place**. See additional information in this newsletter.

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NETMGA August General Membership Meeting:

The August General Meeting will be **August 2**, at 6:30 pm in the **Roseland Bldg. at Exchange Place**. The speaker is Earl Hockin and he will be presenting a program on Fall Gardening. Afterwards, we will take a tour of the Master Gardener maintained gardens. We will not be serving food but members can bring bottled water and individual packaged snacks.

NOTE:

Since the Master Gardeners are affiliated with the University of Tennessee, we are required to follow their guidelines regarding Covid-19 restrictions.

The UT System encourages employees and all members of the university community to [get vaccinated](#) and educate themselves about CDC guidance. [Consistent with CDC guidance](#), fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear masks or social distance on campus, or in university buildings, outside of a healthcare setting. If an individual chooses not to vaccinate, the CDC encourages that they continue to wear masks and distance for their own protection. Any individual may choose to wear a mask on campus, regardless of their vaccination status.

<https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/knowledgebase/covid-19-coronavirus-resources-local-government-tennessee>

Homegrown Tomato Fest XVI

The Sixteenth Annual Homegrown Tomato Fest will take place **Saturday, August 7, 2021**, 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 see friends and neighbors at the Farmers' Market. 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 or dmarshall@chartertn.net.

Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) and Downtown Kingsport Association.

“Featured Project” - Branch House

Branch House in Blountville is a place where a woman may come on one of the worst days of her life – a victim of domestic violence, elder abuse, or sexual assault – and receive help. The program is designed to help connect her with the various departments and organizations that can assist her.



The intent of the Master Gardener’s project is to help create a welcoming atmosphere. We plant and maintain mostly annual and some perennial flowering plants. The project is planned to be largely self-sustaining requiring periodic weeding and seasonal plantings.

Master Gardeners who have volunteered are Cynthia Johnson, Brenda Render, Pat Mazurkiewicz, Heather Duby, Beth Jinks Ashbrook, Charlene Grigsby, and Ginny McCullough.

There aren’t scheduled workdays at this time. We gather on an as-needed basis. Please email me if you would like to be on the notification list – margaret.woolery@gmail.com

Volunteers need to sign a form acknowledging that they are aware they will be monitored by external cameras.

“Featured Project” – Exchange Place Living History Farm

Master Gardeners contribute to Exchange Place, 4812 Orebank Road, Kingsport in a variety of ways. Master gardeners volunteer on the maintenance crew who maintain the lawns and work on repairs to fences and buildings. Master Gardeners help out a wide variety of ways during the annual Spring, Farm Fest and Fall Festivals.

Additionally, we have established a demonstration garden where we grow Heirloom and Hybrid vegetables and herbs. During the festivals, gardeners are in the garden to answer questions about everything from pest control, 3 season gardening, suggested varieties to grow. Each year we grow one or two unusual vegetables or unusual varieties of common vegetables. This year our garden is one of about 200 gardens spread across the US who are growing a variety of Okra called Whidbey White, which is effectively a lost Heirloom Okra grow in the late 1800s. We will be collecting seeds of the whitest pods which will then be sent the Utopian Seed Project and redistributed to be planted with the goal of creating a seed collection that is consistently white or very pale.

Among other vegetables growing this year are about 10 varieties of tomatoes including 5 varieties of Dwarf Tomatoes, Irish Potatoes, Liberty Sweet Potatoes, Dean’s Purple Pole beans, Carrots, Beets, Napa Cabbage, Cabbage, Garlic, Leeks, Bulb Onions, Parsnips, Basil, Thyme, Rosemary, Tromboncino Squash, Cucumbers and Yacon.

We also maintain a Pollinator garden featuring a variety of flowering plants that are especially attractive to a wide variety of pollinators.

We hope to get some more volunteers who would be particularly interested in working in the Pollinator garden or the Laurie Feit Native plant garden.

We work in the gardens for about 2 hours Wednesday mornings all year with the exception of December and the first two or three weeks of January. If you are interested in working at Exchange Place gardens contact Earl Hockin, ehockin@yahoo.com.



2021 Master Gardener Class

Classes will begin on **Thursday August 5**, and will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – noon and run through November. Meeting location will be at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center in Blountville. Course fee of \$185 includes a manual and handouts.

Application form is due by August 1st and should be mailed to: Sullivan County Extension, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN 37617. For more info call 423-574-1919 or email abelche4@utk.edu .

Easy Care Perennial Summer Garden

Enjoy an unbeatable floral show without having to do a ton of work.

By Sheryl Geerts/*Better Homes & Gardens*

Overlapping bloom times is the secret to nearly nonstop color in this easy-care summer garden plan. The low-maintenance perennials in this design produce a palette of pink, purple, yellow, and white flowers from spring to fall, but shine brightest during the warmest months. And when one variety finishes flowering, another takes its place. Plants with staying power such as yarrow and daylily help bridge any bloom gaps. You'll even get an encore from the reblooming iris when it produces a second flush of pristine white flowers in late summer after its first show in spring. Site this plan in full sun for maximum blooms.



Credit: Illustration by Gary Palmer

Plants for Creating the Easy-Care Summer Garden Plan

3 Catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*): Zones 4-9

2 Daylily (*Hemerocallis* 'Johnny One Note'): Zones 3-10

1 Bearded iris (*Iris* 'Immortality'): Zones 4-9

2 Perennial geranium (*Geranium* 'Rozanne'): Zones 5-9

2 Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea* 'Merlot'): Zones 3-9

2 Blazing star (*Liatris spicata* 'Kobold'): Zones 4-9

1 Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium* 'Summerwine'): Zones 3-10

3 Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*): Zones 4-9

2 Perennial sunflower (*Helianthus multiflorus* 'Flore Pleno'): Zones 4-9

2 Feather reedgrass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora*): Zones 4-9

If you aren't able to find the exact cultivars listed above, substitute with others that have similar colors, shapes, and sizes. And because some plants can become overly aggressive and spread out of control in certain climates, always check which species are considered invasive in your area before planting.

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
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943-2392
donfdavis@aol.com

Steele Creek Park Bristol, TN
Robin Feirabend Feierabe@ETSU.edu

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Site Elizabethton
Carol Ludiker 423-707-0026 jaxlud26@gmail.com

Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
Vern Maddux vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com
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 – July & August

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

Feed the birds!



JULY and AUGUST 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 should 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 and Field-Based Classes Schedule:

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

NOTE: There will be no Herb Saplings Meetings in July or August.

JUL 12 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. Zoom link will also be available.

JUL 28-30 Volunteer Days at Rocky Fork State Park

9:00am-1:00pm. Join ranger Jeff to help remove overgrown vegetation along the trails. Bring gloves, food, water and clothing and footwear suitable for working on trails. Meet at the parking lot at 9:00 AM. Information: 423-735-9289.

AUG 2 NETMGA General Meeting

6:30pm. Meeting will be at Roseland Bldg. at Exchange Place in Kingsport. Program Speaker: Earl Hockin.

AUG 1 Orchid Society of East Tennessee

2:00pm at Gray Community Center. Information:

<https://www.facebook.com/OrchidSocietyOfEastTennessee/>

AUG 7 18th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count

9:00am. Meet naturalist Don Holt at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton, for this day-long winged adventure across town. Come for all or part of the day. Contact: 423-543-5808

AUG 7 Gardening Series with Ben Hunter: Vegetable Gardening

9:00am – 12:00pm. at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Elizabethton. Gardener extraordinaire Ben Hunter shares his experiences & techniques for growing the garden of your dreams! Meet in the Visitor Center Gathering Room. Contact: 423-543-5808



CLASS IS IN SESSION

Come Join The Wicked Team

at:

5237 TN Highway 126
Blountville, TN

423-323-7200

**SEMINARS ARE FREE
MAKE & TAKE \$30**

SATURDAYS - 10am and 2pm

- MAY 29** GROWING A VEGGIE GARDEN ON THE PATIO
- JUNE 5** MAKE & TAKE – GROWING GREAT ANNUAL CONTAINERS
GRAND OPENING – LADIES NIGHT OUT
- JUNE 12** RAISING CACTI & SUCCULENTS
PLANT SWAP - 3 - 6PM
- JUNE 19** NATIVE PLANTS OF NE TENNESSEE & SW VIRGINA
- JUNE 26** INVITING POLLINATORS TO THE GARDEN
- JULY 3** DESIGNING A GORGEOUS PERENNIAL GARDEN
- JULY 17** MAN-EATING PLANTS (OK SO MAYBE BUGEATERS)
PLANT SWAP - 3 - 6PM
- JULY 24** MAKE & TAKE – FAIRY GARDEN
- JULY 31** OH DEER – GARDENING WITH DEER
- AUGUST 7** BUGS – THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY
- AUGUST 14** PLANTS THAT CLEAN THE AIR
PLANT SWAP - 3 - 6PM
- AUGUST 21** PLANNING THE FALL VEGETABLE GARDEN
- AUGUST 28** SEED SAVING
- SEPT 4** MAKE & TAKE - MAKING BABIES
- SEPT 11** FOUR SEASON GARDENING
PLANT SWAP - 3 - 6PM
- SEPT 18** GROWING MULTI-SEASONAL PLANTS
- SEPT 25** TIPS AND TRICKS FOR PLANT PARENTS
- OCT 2** FALL PERENNIAL MAINTENANCE
- OCT 9** MAKE & TAKE - MOSS POLE
PLANT SWAP - 3 - 6PM
- OCT 16** HOUSEPLANTS 101

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AT www.TheWickedPlantShop.com

