



Official Publication

Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 18, Issue 5 Sep-Oct 2021

September and October!

It's almost fall (seasonally), though some think it is already here! Time for harvesting, football, switching closets to warmer clothing, AND planting for spring. Fall is a great time to plant bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees.

There is still plenty of time to get in your volunteer hours and CEUs for 2021. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for opportunities.



Welcome 2021 Master Gardener Class!

Wow! What a class! The interns in the new class have already started visiting and volunteering at the project gardens. It is exciting to see their enthusiasm they get started becoming a Master Gardener!

They are:

Elaine Adams, Terri Agold, Susanna Barry, Joyce Bolden, Lenore Colhoun, Edith Early, Karen Fleenor, Maxie Gregory, Jennifer Hale, Victoria Hanson, Karen Hatfield, Charles Hawk, Millie Sue Hawk, Michelle Hejny, Clark Hollingsworth, Catherine Hornbeck, Carla Joinson, Virginia Lapin, Jeanne Lilly, Christine Loveday, Linda Lowery, Jacob Lee McCormick, Monty McLaurin, Deborah Mignogno, Miranda Moretz, Phyllis Morgan, Carolyn Poorman, Susan Sims, Willard Sims, Jennifer Skarsaune, Gloria Snodgrass, Emily Anne Thompson, Renee Thompson, Julie Underwood, Deborah Watson, and Kathleen White.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NETMGA October Membership Meeting
- NETMGA Featured Projects
- Attracting Hummingbirds
- Calendar of Events

NETMGA Board Meeting

The NETMGA Board Meeting will be **September 13th**, 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

NETMGA General Membership Meeting

The October General Membership Meeting will be **October 4th**, at 6:30pm at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. See additional information below.

NETMGA August General Membership Meeting:

The next General Membership Meeting is **October 4th**, 2021 at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville, Tn. We will have door prizes and serve individually packaged snacks and bottled water. We will provide masks and sanitizer for our members who want them. Please wear a mask if you have not been vaccinated.

Our speaker is Michelle Bouton and she has prepared a program entitled "Building Immunity in Challenging Times". She will discuss the herbs and teas to select, treatment strategies and we will have samples to try.

Michelle is the founder of the local school of herbal medicine, HERBalachia. She also serves as a Professor of Herbal Studies at The Daoist Traditions Acupuncture College in Asheville, where she also manages their herbal gardens. Michelle grew up gardening in middle Tennessee, and was lucky enough to have a grandfather who led her on adventures such as wild mushroom hunting and making dandelion wine. Her formal herbal studies include a masters degree in Chinese medicine from Daoist Traditions and studies at the Chestnut School, both in Asheville. Her dream is to nourish the herbalist and herb growers community in east TN, and to create a network enabling clinics to be stocked with medicinal herbs grown by local farmers.

If you would like to know more about HERBalachia and the educational opportunities available please visit their website at <https://herbalachia.com/> or their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/herbalachia>

Currently she is offering classes on Wild Mushroom Hunting and Classification. You can find information on these classes here: <https://mailchi.mp/05be20de027a/seeing-hope-and-some-outdoor-classes-10422264?e=c4af75bc2a>

Discover the Discovery Garden

Join Herb Saplings as we Discover the Discovery Garden at Hands-On! Discovery Center at the Gray Fossil Site on Thursday, **September 2**, at 6:30 pm. We'll be exploring this extensive showcase pollinator garden in its late summer glory. We will see and learn about high impact habitat gardening, emphasizing eco-friendly gardening practices and plant selection for beauty, wildlife value, and ease of maintenance. Master Gardener volunteers will guide us through the garden they diligently maintain. Herb enthusiasts will get a chance to see the useful native herbs included in this planting. Master Gardeners and friends are invited to attend. To keep us safe this will be an All OUTDOOR meeting. For more information, please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or jemoor@gmail.com.

Connect the Dots: Plant Diversity, Pollinators, and Pest Management

Horticulture Educator and Ohio State University Entomology and Extension Specialist Joe Boggs will present "Connect the Dots: Plant Diversity, Pollinators, and Pest Management" on Wednesday, **September 15**, at 7 p.m. This is a free Zoom presentation sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS). To register, see the SAPS web page: <http://saps.us/>. Registration deadline is noon on Wednesday, September 15.



Protecting plant pollinators is commonly viewed as only an insecticide use issue. However, how does the abundance of flowering plants translate into a decreased number of plant pests? How do pollinators themselves play a critical role in the reduced need for insecticides? This presentation reveals the multi-layered connections between pollen and nectar and a parade of unsung insect heroes that keep pests in check.

Joe Boggs has over 29 years of Extension experience specializing in tree and shrub diagnostics and pest management and has served as a state-wide specialist. He averages over 100 teaching presentations per year including a recent presentation to the Perennial Plant Association, and has published articles in numerous trade journals including *Landsculptor* (Michigan Green Industry Association), the *Buckeye Arborist* (Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association), and the *Canadian Groundskeeper*. He is the co-leader for the Ohio State University Buckeye Environmental Horticulture Team (BEHT) and a frequent contributor to the Buckeye Yard and Garden Line (BYGL) blog. His weekly radio segment, "Buggy Joe Boggs Report," runs from April through October on the Saturday morning show, "In the Garden with Ron Wilson," (iHeartRadio: WKRC, Cincinnati; News Radio 610 WTVN, Columbus). The Cincinnati show is syndicated to 34 radio stations in 12 states.

Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 49th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, **September 25**, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, **September 26**, from 12 noon to 5 pm. This celebration of pioneer arts and crafts and the harvest season will feature artisans demonstrating and selling a wide array of traditional folk arts, along with vendors selling autumn plants and seasonal crafts. The festival will also offer old timey foods, music, and children's activities as well as demonstrations of harvest time activities on an 1850s farm such as sorghum making and cider making. This year almost all activities will take place outdoors and all CDC and health department guidelines will be observed. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, call 423-288-6071 or visit www.exchangeplace.info.

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff a shift at the Master Gardeners' booth and help with harvest demonstrations. To volunteer please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or jemmoor@gmail.com.

“Featured Project” - Discovery Garden at the Hands-On Museum

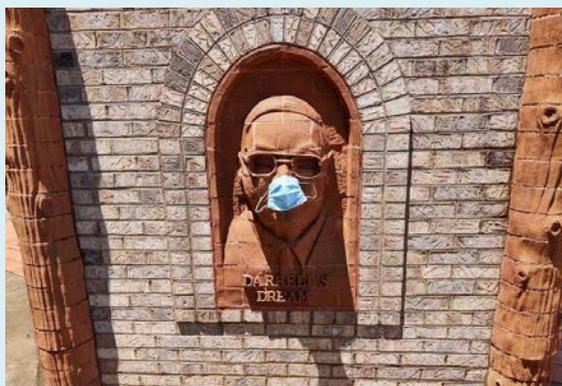
The Discovery Garden is located at the Gray Fossil Site and Museum. NETMGA adopted this project in January 2021 before the site was open to the public. The garden is approximately 10,000 square feet of native shrubs, trees, grasses, flowering perennials, and vines. It serves as a sustainable pollinator garden and a learning experience for the 90,000 visitors to the museum each year. The formal opening is planned for the summer of 2021.

Many of the plants in the garden are the same ones that existed at this site over 4 million years ago in the Pliocene epoch; others are in the same family or genus. These plants attract pollinating insects and animals that play an important role in the ecosystem.

The adjacent shelter provides a children’s agricultural exhibit to show how agriculture relies on pollinators. The garden and shelter are designed for community involvement whether it’s tending the garden, participating in educational workshops, or enjoying the beauty of the garden. Each visitor can gain an appreciation of native plants and an understanding of pollinators in our region.



“Featured Project” - Warriors’ Path State Park-Darrell’s Dream Boundless Playground



In spite of COVID, Master Gardeners continue their work at Darrell’s Dream Boundless Playground at Warriors’ Path State Park. We hold Spring and Fall Days of Caring where several organizations come together to clean and repair playground equipment and weed and mulch the playground and surrounding areas. We also schedule workdays once a month April through October. Work can be done anytime the park is open for those who are interested in helping.

This year we’re revamping the two rain gardens which are attracting lots of bees and butterflies with Asters, Frosted Mountain Mint and Buttonbush.



Pictures from Day of Caring

Warriors’ Path is a great place to learn about native plants. Help is needed for our **Fall Day of Caring** and that date will be determined soon. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. Contact Gwyn Duncan if you’re interested in helping: geduncan@charter.net

Attracting Hummingbirds

When I designed my first perennial cutting garden, color was my main objective. I only chose flowers that looked good in a vase and lasted at least a week in a mix of sizes.

For a time, I didn't give much thought to which pollinators might like the garden, or whether any other creatures might benefit from it...not until I planted the first Cardinal Flower. It grew four feet tall and when it bloomed the second year it attracted a visitor I hadn't seen before – a beautiful Rufus Hummingbird. He came back every day and hovered over the red tubular flowers, happily drinking nectar.

Because the cutting garden is on the side of my house no one sees, I only caught glimpses of the hummer when I looked out one of our bedroom windows. At the time I thought, "wouldn't it be great if I could grow something in a container on the deck that a hummingbird would visit so I could see him from my kitchen windows!" That started my search for smaller, more compact plants to draw the hummers. For several years, I grew a variety of red Salvias that they loved, but I always wished the lower leaves wouldn't get eaten by the squirrels. I tried new plants every year. The squirrels kept eating all their leaves! They even ate the Angelonia and Hibiscus leaves. By fall my flowers always had bare stems.

This year I tried something different. It was bushy and colorful like Salvia, easy care like Angelonia and Hibiscus, but this was also kind of stinky! (Smells like licorice.) The squirrels wouldn't touch it, but the hummingbirds loved it. It was a hybrid variety of Hummingbird Mint called Agastache 'Kudos Red'.

Agastache hybrids have showier flowers and better winter hardiness than species plants and can grow in our clay soil if it's amended for great drainage. They can be grown in a container or in lean well drained soil in a raised bed. They're hardy in zones 6 and 7 but won't tolerate wet soil in winter. These lovely perennials don't seem to have any pests and flower from late spring through fall. If you cut them back in spring, they'll regrow or divide them to make more. I highly recommend this gorgeous plant.



Happy Gardening!

Sue Stanley, MG since 2006, Growing in Knoxville TN

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 mmvdvm@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!!**



2021 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Karen Rowell

423-737-0332

karenrowell94@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT John Hitchcock

423-525-8587

jghitchcock@comcast.net

TREASURER Karen Todd

423-502-0575

ktodd@systemsplus-inc.com

Mary Ann Lovelace

423-392-4990

lovelaceclan@chartertn.net

SECRETARY Barbara Radice

423-833-7600

bradice@charter.net

PAST PRESIDENT Gwen Ellis

423-612-1068

gmellis@aol.com

ADVISOR Chris Ramsey

423-646-9043

cwramsey@utk.edu



CERTIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP

Mary Cain

423-361-0223

cainm01@yahoo.com

Andrea Belcher

423-202-6611

andreabelcher55@yahoo.com

PROJECTS Don Davis

423-854-0152

donfdavis@aol.com

MENTORS

OPEN

2020 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

Emily Lemieux

elemieux@charter.net

PROGRAMS Teresa Gaffner

956-874-4544

zahmscat@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY Kathy & Larry Wagner

276-696-0187

kwagner@chartertn.net

2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

WEBSITE Carl Voigt

423-467-2013

voigt7@comcast.net

Barbara Voigt

423-467-2013

voigt7b@comcast.net

PUBLICITY

Brenda McKinnis

423-946-2769

jbmckinnis4@embarqmail.com

Margaret O'Neal

717-329-1866

mion6466@live.com

COMMUNICATIONS Barbara Radice

423-833-7600

bradice@charter.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Betts Leach

423-571-8662

BettsL@aol.com

FACEBOOK

Heather Duby

865-556-7630

kelshei@gmail.com

Maggie McClellan

423-489-0555

mmargaretmcclellan@icloud.com

Monthly Gardening Tasks – September & October

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

Feed the birds!



SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 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/>

SEP 2 Herb Saplings Meeting

6:30pm at Hands-On! Discovery Center at the Gray Fossil Site. To keep us safe this will be an All OUTDOOR meeting. For more information, please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or jemoor@gmail.com.

SEP 4 Guided Nature Walk: Moss at Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum

10:00am. Join Eric Shershen for an interactive walk around the Garden centered around mosses. Cost: \$5 Members, \$10 Non-members. Information:

<http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/guided-nature-walk-moss/>

SEP 10-11 2021 Fall Roan Mountain Naturalists' Rally

Information and Registration: <https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/>

SEP 11 2021 Fall Plant and Rummage Sale - Botanical Gardens at Asheville

9:00am – 4:00pm. Rain or Shine! Information: (828) 252-5190 or

<https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/events-classes/plant-sales/>

SEP 13 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

SEP 15 Southern Appalachian Plant Society Program via Zoom

6:50pm. Joe Boggs will present "Connect the Dots: Plant Diversity, Pollinators and Pest Management". Registration deadline is noon Wednesday, September 15th. Information:

<http://saps.us/>

SEP 16 Seminar: Ancient Flowers at Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum

6:00pm. A seminar given by Dr. Joseph Williams of UT's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Cost: \$5 Non-members, Free for Members. Information:

<http://knoxgarden.org/calendar/ancient-flowers/>

SEP 18 Sorghum Festival at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site

9:00am-4:00pm. Join local volunteers as they demonstrate how sorghum is made and watch as they cook down the juices into sweet molasses. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children twelve and under. Information: 423-926-3631

- SEP 25 UT Gardens Fall Plant Sale
9:00am-2:00pm. 2518 Jacob Dr. Knoxville, TN. UT Gardens is dedicated to providing a safe shopping environment for guests and team members. The sale will be spread out over a wide area for adequate social distancing, masks will be encouraged and hand sanitizer will be provided.
- SEP 25-26 Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival
10:00am-5:00pm (Sat.) & 12:00-5:00pm (Sun.). Admission \$5 (12 and over) at gate. Free under 12. Information: <https://www.exchangeplace.info/festival-details>
- OCT 2 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,
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=bird-walk-10-2-21>
- OCT 4 NETMGA General Meeting
6:30pm. Meeting will be at 6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. Program Speaker: Michelle Bouton
- OCT 9 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,
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=bird-walk-10-9-21>
- OCT 9 Woody Plant Natural History Walk at Botanical Gardens at Asheville
10:00am-12:00pm. A guided walk with Ron Lance that will focus on the natural history of our native plants. Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. Participants must pre-register and pre-pay for classes. Limit: 16. Information: 828-252-5190 or
<https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/events-classes/adult-classes/>
- OCT 9-10 Fall Festival at Rocky Mount State Historic Site
<https://rockymountmuseum.com/>
- OCT 16 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,
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=bird-walk-10-16-21>
- OCT 23 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,
<https://tnstateparks.com/events/details/#/?event=bird-walk-10-23-21>
- OCT 23 Fall Tree Walk at Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum
10:00am. Join Board Member & former KBGA staff, Dan Steinhoff, on a guided tour of KBGA's unique & historic tree collection. The Garden in its full fall glory! Cost: \$5 Non-members, Free for Members. Information: <http://knoxgarden.org/classes-events/workshops/>



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

