



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 18, Issue 6 Nov-Dec 2021

## It's Fall, Ya'll!

It's a beautiful time in Northeast Tennessee! Go for a drive! And time for raking leaves, football, and planning for the upcoming holidays! It isn't too late to plant shrubs and trees, either.

There are still a few opportunities to get in your volunteer hours and CEUs for 2021. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for opportunities.



## NETMGA General Membership Meeting & Christmas Party

Mark your calendar! The MG general meeting will be Monday, **December 13**. The Cattlemen will provide a Christmas Dinner at the Ron Ramsey Agriculture Center. The cost of the catered meal will be \$15 per person. Dinner will be served at 6:30.

A steak dinner and a Vegan dinner will be offered, with dessert and beverages included. Steak dinner will include steak, baked potato and salad; Vegan dinner will include stuffed pepper and sides.

More information about this event will be provided in the near future!

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Help Remove Invasive Pest Plants at Hammond House

Would you like to learn about some of the invasive pest plants that threaten our natural areas while helping to prepare beds at a Kingsport historic site for installation of a pollinator garden? Master Gardeners are invited to join us on Saturday, **November 6**, from 9 am – 12 noon, as Keep Kingsport Beautiful and the historic Hammond House hold a landscape cleanup at Hammond House.

You'll find out why invasive exotic plants are such a problem in the landscape, learn to identify some of the more common ones, and learn how to manage them.

Tools, gloves and trash bags will be provided. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hammond House is a restored Victorian home dating back to 1892. It is located at 121 Shirley Street, Kingsport, TN 37662. For more information regarding the cleanup, contact KKB Director Sharon Hayes at 423-392-8814 or Joy Moore at [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com).

### Native Plants in Context: ecology, diversity, and interconnection

Acclaimed author, native plant expert and the F. Otto Haas Executive Director at The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, William Cullina, will present, "Native Plants in Context: ecology, diversity, and interconnection," on Thursday, **November 11**, at 7 pm. 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 Thursday, November 11. For more information, call 423-348-6572 or e-mail [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com).



No plant is an island: each exists in a context and community of trees and toads, rocks and rotifers, birds and bugs. Like human communities, this network of individual needs is supported by complex communication and mutualisms that we hardly understand. In this talk Cullina uses the analogy of human communities to explain the importance of relationships in the natural world and answers the age old lament "why is gardening such @#\*&@^ hard work" while presenting a more sustainable (not to mention back-friendly) way to garden and live on this small planet.

In a special bonus program for SAPS members only, Bill Cullina will present "**The Botany of Design**" from 4-5 pm. Using his latest book, *Understanding Perennials* as a starting point, Bill tackles the thorny subject of garden design in a completely different way. In this fun and information filled talk he explores such things as the reasons for big leaves, variegation, red foliage and flowers and ways to create more satisfying designs without breaking the budget. He looks at life beyond the color wheel, the importance of healthy soil and reveals some of his best horticultural secrets while weaving together aesthetics, psychology, botany, and ecology into a fascinating one hour ride. It is a talk that beginning gardeners as well as seasoned pros will both learn from and enjoy. If you're not a SAPS member or not sure your membership is up to date, you can join prior to the program and have membership through 2022.

William (Bill) G. Cullina became the F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum, the official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in July 2019, after a very successful tenure serving as President and CEO of the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden from 2011. Prior to that, he was nursery director and head propagator at the New England Wildflower Society for 13 years, where he is noted for developing the largest native plant nursery in New England.

Bill Cullina is a recognized authority on North American native plants, lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups, and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*; *Native Trees, Shrubs, Vines*; *Understanding Orchids*, *Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses*; and *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite*. In recognition of Cullina's leadership and accomplishments, he is the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Horticultural Society's Professional Award (for outstanding public garden leadership), the National Garden Clubs' Award of Excellence, the Perennial Plant Association's Award of Merit (lifetime achievement, horticulture) and the Scott Arboretum's Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal (lifetime achievement, horticulture).

**Please note you must register separately for the 4 pm and 7 pm presentations.**

## **Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place**

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebanks Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, **December 4**, from 10 am - 4 pm. Fresh greenery and trees, handcrafted wreaths and roping, unique folk arts and handcrafts, herbal products and traditional holiday foods will be on sale. The celebration also features hands-on activities for all ages and demonstrations of wintertime activities on the 19th century farmstead. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail begins at 4:15 p.m.

This year all activities will take place outdoors and CDC guidelines will be observed. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. Admission fees and donations help support Exchange Place's restoration and education efforts. For more information, 423-288-6071 or [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info).

## **Chris' Corner**



**CHRIS RAMSEY**

**SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT**  
**(423) 574-1919    cramsey@utk.edu**

Hope you're enjoying the fall as we end our 2021 gardening season. Hope you are getting your hours entered for the year. The documentation of volunteer hours is very impactful when writing our reports to justify the Master Gardener program.

Just wanted to let you know we will be offering a Master Gardener class starting in January of 2022. The class will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, January 25 through April 26. These 14 sessions will be "Zoom" sessions from our state MG office. In addition to these sessions, we will have 7 "local hands-on" sessions. The exciting part of this format will be the opportunity to hear many of the subject matter experts. Provided Covid guidelines allow, we will still meet as a group to view the 14 sessions. Help us spread the word in your communities. Encourage interested persons to call us at 423-574-1919.

## **“Featured Project” - Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital**



Still under pandemic guidelines, the hospital volunteers masked –up and continued to provide cheerful garden areas where staff and visitors could relax and de-stress.



Working at both the Johnson City Medical Center and Woodridge Hospital, we were able to plant an attractive mixture of annuals among our perennials to provide tranquility in the midst of the COVID chaos.



Renovation continued at the St Jude garden with bamboo removal being the primary task. Using NETMGA grant money we were able to finish phase 2 of the garden.

We have a dedicated group of gardeners who enjoy working together to create therapeutic

garden spaces. They are great at sharing ideas and problem-solving.



Special thanks to Deletette, Margaret, Michael and Carl who volunteered to take care of the indoor tropical plants under less than ideal conditions. We welcome new class members Karen, Jeanne, Susan and Willie who have been a great help in upgrading and maintaining the gardens.

More volunteers are welcome. Contact Barbara Voigt if you are interested in learning more about this community service project. voigt7b@comcast.net

## ***“Featured Project” - Rocky Mount Historical Museum***

This has been a very exciting time for Rocky Mount Historical Museum. The Master Gardeners continue to work on numerous landscaping projects throughout the original 35 acres of land. The Kitchen/Herb Garden, Mrs. Cobb's Cutting Garden, the vegetable garden and orchard are looking better than ever. Also, the butterfly garden has been cleaned up thanks to new class members. There has been a pollinator plot added to attract butterflies. A new 75 HP New Holland Tractor and a 4-wheel utility vehicle has greatly increased the productivity of the master gardeners.



This year, there has been a special effort to expand the native plants and wildlife at Rocky Mount. Dr. Frosty Levy, Professor Emeritus of the ETSU Department of Biological Sciences says, "The fields look as good as I have seen for mostly native grasses." He has put together a grass brochure for Rocky Mount naturalists. The Meadow and Grasslands are only part of our new nature trails. The woods also are a great place to view wildlife on new trails. With all the native plants, insects and birds are plentiful and have become a regular site for bird watchers.

There have also been programs added to have experts give tours of the meadows, grasslands and woods. This includes programs for children with disabilities. Because of a Grant from

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association, there are binoculars, magnifying glasses, and butterfly nets available for those wanting to get closer to nature.

Recently Rocky Mount purchased 15 acres of additional century farm across the road, which with the 5 lots purchased from a developer prior, gives us land on both sides of Hyder Hill Road. This land will be used to expand Rocky Mount mission of farm and nature. The new parcel includes a tobacco barn, and artisan spring, and a pond that has been described as a honey hole.



Dr. Frost Levy reports: "The pond on the new property is botanically more interesting. It is shallow enough for *Sagittaria latifolia* to grow out towards the middle. It is gently sloping from the shore so that clumps of *Eleocharia obtusa* are common 1-6 feet from the shore. A few spots had cattails and within those were some plants of *Persicaria glabra*, somewhat of a range extension for this species. There were additional species of *Eleocharis* but it was too late in the season to get good fruit for a positive identification. There was an abundance of bullfrogs in the pond as well as lots of dragonflies and damselflies."

Initial plans are for boardwalks, to view the pond and wildlife without damaging the environment. The boardwalk will connect to trails so all can enjoy this wonderful addition to the Rocky Mount Historic Site. As well, the area around the pond could be a great spot for an amphitheater.

The artisan spring will be a key element for the Sonya Fox McKamey Memorial Garden being developed by Master Gardeners, the core of them being members of the newest class. This garden, besides featuring the artesian spring, will have a unique infinity garden. The garden will be ADA accessible with numerous benches to enjoy all the solitude of the surroundings.

There are also plans for milkweed, native and pollinator gardens, and a tree nursery of Champion Trees of Tennessee. Other discussed projects for the new land could be a pumpkin patch, tobacco demo area, green houses and a nature center. Lots of projects for Master Gardeners of Northeast Tennessee

Come out on Monday mornings or Thursday afternoons to help with initial prep of the area.

# Amaryllis Care

How to Plant, Grow – and Rebloom – these Holiday Favorites



Amaryllis are rewarding, easy-care houseplants that really brighten a winter windowsill.

Few bulbs are easier to grow than amaryllis - and few bloom with greater exuberance and beauty. Just plant the bulb in good potting soil, water regularly and provide bright, indirect light. A support stake is handy for keeping the blooms upright, but little else is required. Most varieties will begin blooming six to eight weeks after planting; some can take as long as ten weeks.

If your amaryllis is not already potted, plant each amaryllis bulb in a 6-8" pot. Heavy pots are preferable because lightweight pots may tip over under the weight of the blooms.

Plant the bulb, pointed-end-up, in potting mix. Pack the soil gently around the bulb so approximately one-third of the bulb remains above the soil line. **Important:** do not use soil from the garden because it will not drain properly.

Place the pot in a location that receives bright, indirect light. Water sparingly until you see about 2" of new growth. From then on, water regularly. As the plant grows, turn the pot periodically to encourage the flower stalks to grow straight. Flower buds will appear at the top of each stalk, followed by a dramatic floral display. To prolong the blooms, keep the pot out of direct sunlight.

## When Will It Bloom?

This gives you an idea of when your amaryllis will bloom relative to the planting date. It usually takes six to eight weeks for amaryllis to bloom, but check the label on the variety you have — some bloom faster, and some slower.

Planting date	Bloom timeframe	Planting date	Bloom timeframe
Oct. 15	Nov. 19-Dec. 10	Dec. 15	Jan. 19-Feb. 9
Nov. 1	Dec. 6-27	Jan. 1	Feb. 6-26
Nov. 15	Dec. 20-Jan. 10	Jan. 15	Feb. 19-March 12
Dec. 1	Jan. 6-28	Feb. 1	March 8-29
		Feb. 15	April 5-26

## For Blooms Next Year

Amaryllis can be encouraged to blossom again the following year. It takes a little planning and extra care, but is quite simple and very rewarding. After the flowers have faded, cut the flower stalk to within 1" of the top of the bulb. Continue to water and feed the plant regularly with a liquid houseplant fertilizer. Amaryllis will grow a number of leaves during the spring and summer. This will help the plant produce energy for the following year's bloom. In mid-August, begin withholding water and let the foliage die back naturally as the pot dries out completely.

Store the dormant bulb in a cool, dark and dry place for a minimum of eight weeks; longer is fine. Then, about six to eight weeks before you want the amaryllis to flower again, repot the bulb in fresh potting soil and place it in bright, indirect light. Resume watering — sparingly at first. Once you see new growth, increase watering and look forward to the upcoming flower show. By following these basic care guidelines, you will be able to encourage your amaryllis to flower year after year.

- Gardener's Supply Company 09/09/2021

## 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)

**Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Museum**  
Barbara Radice [bradice@charter.net](mailto:bradice@charter.net)

**Exchange Place Living History Farm** Kingsport  
Earl Hockin [erockin@yahoo.com](mailto:erockin@yahoo.com)

**Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlathemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathemoon1775@gmail.com)  
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 [dave\\_carla@charternet.net](mailto:dave_carla@charternet.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  
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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 [howlathemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathemoon1775@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Pepper Festival**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlathemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlathemoon1775@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Tomato Festival**  
Dennis Marshall 423-288-3675 [dmarshall@charternet.net](mailto:dmarshall@charternet.net)



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## Monthly Gardening Tasks – November & December

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

## Feed the birds!



## NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 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/>

NOV 6 Help Remove Invasive Pest Plants

9am – 12pm. Hammond House, 121 Shirley Street, Kingsport. Information: contact KKB Director Sharon Hayes at 423-392-8814 or Joy Moore at [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com).

NOV 11 Southern Appalachian Plant Society Program via Zoom

7 pm. William Cullina, Executive Director at the Morris Arboretum, celebrated author and recognized authority on North American native plants, will present “Native Plants in Context: Ecology, Diversity, and Interconnection.” (NOTE: Special Zoom presentation at 4 pm: The Botany of De-sign; for SAPS members only.) Registration: <http://saps.us/>.

NOV 16 Wild Ones Webinar.

7pm. Larry Weaner, FALPD, president and founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates and developer of New Directions in the American Landscape, will present: “The Self Perpetuating Landscape: Setting a Process in Motion.” Learn principles and protocols for creating dynamic, ecologically rich landscapes where nature does much of the “planting.” Free. <https://wildones.org/webinars/>

NOV 16 Margie Hunter, Invasive Plants of Tennessee.

7:30 pm. Free webinar. Tennessee Native Plant Society. <https://www.tnps.org/tnps-speakers/>

DEC 4 Christmas Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm

10 am - 4 pm, 4812 Orebark Road in Kingsport. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, 423-288-6071 or [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info).

DEC 13 NETMGA General Meeting & Christmas Party

6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center

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



Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association

Northeast Tennessee  
Master Gardener Association  
c/o  
UT Extension Sullivan County  
140 Spurgeon Lane  
Blountville, TN 37617

<http://netmga.net>

<https://extension.tennessee.edu/mastergardener>



**UT Extension**

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Endowment

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to contribute to the University of Tennessee Foundation  
(Please make checks payable to the University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc.)

My/Our gift is designated for: Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Endowment (MASTE\_06)

Or other fund: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ a year for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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Enclosed is a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Institute of Agriculture

Questions: Please contact Tom Looney at 865-974-8622 or [tom.looney@tennessee.edu](mailto:tom.looney@tennessee.edu)

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