



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

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## Fall Will Be Here Soon!

Summer heat and scattered heavy thunderstorms will soon give way to cooler temperatures, bonfires, and putting your gardens “to bed.” That is, unless you are growing fall veggies and/or fall blooming plants.

If you still need 2022 continuing education hours there are plenty of opportunities to learn in-person, via Zoom, and other online resources. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for possibilities.



### NETMGA BOARD MEETING

NETMGA Board meeting will be on **September 12**, 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

### NETMGA OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**October 3** General Membership Meeting will be held at 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville. The speaker will be Susie Morrison, your fellow gardener and compadre in all things green and growing. The topic for discussion will be The Regenerative and Sustainable Garden. We will discuss ways to take so many of the garden principles we already know (and maybe even a few new ones we don't know) and consider viewing them through a different looking glass in a fresh new way. The doors will open at 6:00 pm for networking and fellowship. The speaker will start at 6:30 pm. Please feel free to bring your favorite appetizer or dish to share with all.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Upcoming SAPS Programs
- Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival
- Featured Projects
- Sue Stanley Article
- September/October Calendar of Events

## Mark Your Calendar!

### September SAPS Program

Award-winning horticulturist and landscape designer Patrick Cullina will present "Effective Strategies for Creating Dynamic, Diverse Plant-Driven Landscapes" on Thursday, **September 15**, at 7 pm. at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. In this vibrant illustrated talk, Cullina, best known for his work on New York City's Highline and at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, will discuss the role of plants and their various ecologies as elements of and inspiration for successful dynamic landscapes. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572 or email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), <https://saps.us/>.



Patrick Cullina is an award-winning horticulturist, author, landscape designer, photographer, lecturer, and organizational consultant with more than twenty years of experience in the landscape field. He runs a design and consulting business based in Manhattan that is dedicated to the innovative and sensitive integration of plants and materials into a diverse range of compelling designs-drawing inspiration from both the natural world and constructed environments alike. Previously, he was the founding Vice President of Horticulture and Park Operations for New York City's High Line; the Vice President of Horticulture, Operations and Science Research at Brooklyn Botanic Garden; and the Associate Director of The Rutgers University Gardens in affiliation with the school's Department of Landscape Architecture.

Throughout his career Cullina has served as a consultant and advisor to an array of public and private clients and projects and has lectured throughout the U.S. and abroad for universities, public gardens, garden clubs, horticultural organizations, museums, libraries and professional organizations on the subjects of plants, living environments, horticulture, landscape design, landscape maintenance and the urban experience. To see examples of his work, go to:

<https://patrickcullina.com/>

Southern Appalachian Plant Society is a regional non-profit educational organization dedicated to providing learning opportunities on plants and gardening through programs, projects and member interactions. SAPS membership is open to anyone with an interest in gardening, whether a beginner or expert. For more information see <https://saps.us/>

## Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 50th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, **September 24**, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, **September 25**, 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 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 heathside cooking. 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).

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff a shift at the Master Gardener table. Help with children's activities and harvest demonstrations is also welcome. To volunteer please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com).

## October SAPS Program



Susan Martin, freelance horticultural marketer, writer, speaker and consultant, will speak on Thursday, **October 20**, at 7 p.m. at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. Passionate about plants and gardening, Martin's goal is to inspire and educate people about how to garden every day, sharing practical gardening advice you can put to use right away. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572 or email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), <https://saps.us/>.

Susan Martin is a native Michigander, raised near Detroit by parents who instilled the value of flower and vegetable gardening in her from a very young age. She graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University. Afterwards, she worked in independent garden center sales while building her own garden design and maintenance business where she focuses on installing unique plants to suit her clients' individual styles. She has spent over two decades working in the horticulture industry on new plant development, garden design, sales, marketing and consulting. As someone who works with people at every level of the business, from the breeder to the consumer, it is Susan's mission to connect those producing plants to the people making the final purchase.

Susan is an avid gardener who doesn't just talk the talk—she walks the walk in her own zone 6 garden which has been featured in print and online and has received visitors from around the world. Join her in her horticultural pursuits on Facebook and Instagram @Gardener Sue's News.

## ***“Featured Project” – Discovery Garden at Hands-On Museum***

The Discovery Garden is located at the Gray Fossil Site and museum. NETMGA adopted this project in January 2021 before the garden site was open to the public. The garden is approximately 10,000 square feet of native shrubs, trees, grasses, flowering perennials, and vines. It now serves as a sustainable pollinator garden and a learning experience for the 90,000 visitors to the museum each year. The garden formally opened in May 2022.



Volunteers at the Garden Opening

Many of the plants in the garden are the same ones or at least in the same family or genus as ones that existed at this site over 4 million years ago in the Pliocene epoch. Priorities in creating the garden were:

- Relevance to the paleontological history of the site
- Inspiring wonder and creating drama through the use of texture, size, fragrance, and color
- Creating habitat for insects, birds, and small mammals and modeling sustainable gardening practices

One of the problems that faced Master Gardeners at the site was water flow. In heavy rains the garden became a “pond”; it washed away mulch and practically drowned some of the plants. The gardeners dug trenches through the garden, following the natural flow of water and filled the trenches with river rock. The drainage pipe was lowered so the water would flow through the garden to the drainage pipe. The effect of the work was not only successful but it added beauty to the landscape.



Water remediation



Garden Path

## ***“Featured Project” – Warriors’ Path State Park***

Two major improvements to the Park have been delayed by supply chain issues but we are anxiously awaiting the opening of the new marina and RV campground! A beautiful boardwalk has been built along the shore of the marina and other projects are underway, such as paving and water/sewer improvements. Come check it out!



The new marina at Warriors’ Path State Park

Master Gardeners have been maintaining and growing our existing gardens. We are concentrating on adding more bee and butterfly attracting plants and many of the native plants we use are recommended by the North American Butterfly Association. And several of these plants provide excellent fall color.



Two of the showiest shrubs for fall are Beautyberry and Hearts-a-Bustin.



Asters, Frosted Mountain Mint and Virginia Sweetspire in the rain garden.

Help is needed for our **Fall Day of Caring** that will be held Saturday, Nov. 12 starting at

8:30am. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP.

Other work days are scheduled as needed throughout the season but work can be done anytime the park is open. If you're interested in helping at WPSP, contact Gwyn Duncan at [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net) or 423-239-0460.

## Fall Color

Looking for some fall color for your garden? Here are a few plants that will get you to the first heavy frost, and some will actually provide color through the winter months.

- Pansies/Violas
- Mums
- Snap Dragons
- Dusty Miller
- Ornamental Cabbage or Kale
- Ornamental Peppers
- Asters
- Coral Bells (foliage color)
- Japanese Anemone
- Coneflowers
- Rudbeckia
- Gaillardia
- Turtleheads
- Goldenrod
- Beauty Berry
- Coral Berry
- Crimson Clover Cover Crop



**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**

<https://www.uthort.com/>

## Climate Change Updates in the Ornamental Garden

Last year's heavier rainstorms and higher temperatures made it obvious that climate change was affecting the way I garden. I knew that if I was going to continue to enjoy my gardening experience, I needed to focus on ways to make it easier to manage. After all, gardening is supposed to be fun!

Since I live in a gated community where irrigation systems are required, we changed the timing of watering for certain days of the week only. That helps all of us reduce water usage. The garden beds are hand watered so we can address each plant without over watering. The lawn is cut four inches high which shades the root system, so it does not dry out as fast.

One of the most effective changes I have made is amending the soil in my garden beds to turn them all into raised beds. This has improved the drainage considerably and adding extra compost and mulch has allowed them to better retain moisture. It also makes it easier to plant, no tilling required, and less weeds.

Although our storms are more intense, milder winters have increased the number of chipmunks and voles in the shade gardens. Rather than try to control them with poisons or repellants, I've moved my hostas into large pots. Since the voles love to tunnel under the mulch, this bed is not raised as high, and the mulch is not more than an inch deep. As a result, I'm seeing less tunnels. We've even noticed a few new Red-Tailed Hawks hanging around our woods. Predators help too!



Instead of using mostly annuals in the cutting garden, I've added more hardy perennials so it's now fifty percent annuals and perennials. This has been a time saver during planting time. The Chrysanthemums, Cardinal Flowers and Cone Flowers will all be left to go to seed in the fall for the birds. This is also a pollinator garden, so we never use chemicals. This way the native bees and hummingbirds can thrive.

Problems with climate change are sure to increase. Look at your garden this year for clues about making an action plan to start dealing with it in your yard.

Sue Stanley, MG since 2006

## 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 [ehockin@yahoo.com](mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com)

**Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@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 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Pepper Festival**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com](mailto:howlatthemoon1775@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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## Feed the birds!



## SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2022 Calendar of Events

**Covid-19 is still affecting 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 with Melody Rose, Greene County TN Extension  
Information and Registration: <https://sites.google.com/utk.edu/mondaymusings/home>

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum Classes/Workshops: <http://knoxgarden.org/classes-events/workshops/>

North Carolina Arboretum Classes Schedule:  
<https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/adult-education-classes/>

Steele Creek Park iNaturalist Challenge 2022: <https://www.friendsofsteelecreek.org/?p=4999>

Tennessee Native Plant Society Seminars: <https://www.tnps.org/tnps-speakers/>

Appalachian Highlands Chapter of Wild Ones:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/783213076410695/about>

Tennessee Valley Chapter of Wild Ones/Programs and Events:  
<https://tnvalleywildones.org/programs-events/public-programs/>

Wild Ones Webinars: <https://wildones.org/webinars/>

SEP 3 Fall Vegetable Gardening at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.

SEP 9-11 Fall Naturalists' Rally at Roan Mountain State Park  
All activities are free for Friends of Roan Mountain, \$15 for non-members. Children under 18 and students are free. <https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/2022-fall-rally>

SEP 10 Composting for Beginners at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Guest Speaker: Red Bud Farm. Find out how to start your own compost and why composting is beneficial. Cost: Free. Registration is requested.  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.

SEP 10 Fall Lawn Care at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.

SEP 12 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm. Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville

SEP 13 The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly of 2022

12:00pm. Guest Speaker: Ben Hunter. UT-TSU Extension-Sullivan County Garden Series. In person or virtual. 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Call 423-574-1919 to register.

SEP 15 SAPS Program – Pat Cullina

7:00pm. Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. Info: phone 423-348-6572 or email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), <https://saps.us/>.

SEP 16 National Public Lands Day - TN Serves - Trail Cleanup

9:00am-12:00pm. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. A day on the banks of the Watauga River cleaning up trash along the Patriots Path Trail. Registration and Waiver required: [https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\\_id=614423](https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=614423)

SEP 16-17 Fall Plant Sale & Vendor Mark at The North Carolina Arboretum

12:00-3:00pm Friday; 10:00am-3:00pm Saturday. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/fall-plant-sale-and-vendor-market/2022-09-16/>

SEP 17 Sorghum Festival at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site

9:00am-3:40:00pm. Join us as our Sorghum team teaches about how sorghum is made and watch as they cook down the juices into sweet sorghum. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children twelve and under. Tipton-Haynes members are free! Information: 423-926-3631 or <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/event/sorghum-festival-5/>

SEP 17 Herb Gardening at Evergreen of Johnson City

10:30am. Guest Speaker: Joy Moore, NETMGA. Tips for growing your own herbs, growing herbs indoors, and how to overwinter herbs. Cost: Free. Registration is requested. <https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.

SEP 17 National Public Lands Day - TN Serves

9:00am-1:00pm. Rocky Fork State Park. Help us lop and weed-eat portions of our trail system. Each participant will have to sign a waiver. Minors under the age of 18 will need a legal guardian to sign the waiver. Contact: (423) 735-9289.

SEP 17 National Public Lands Day - Doe River & Trails Cleanup

9:00-11:30am. Roan Mountain State Park. A trail & river cleanup to honor National Public Lands Day. Planned work includes picking up litter, clearing trail, de-berming, and other routine trail maintenance activities. Registration: [https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\\_id=718575](https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=718575)

SEP 24 Fall Festival and Adopt and Shop Event at Evergreen of Johnson City

10:30am. Fall Family Fun, Giveaways, Refreshments, Coupons, Kid's Crafts & More! Plus an Adopt & Shop Event with the Washington County Animal Shelter! For information call 423-282-3431.

SEP 24 Clean Up & Perennials for Fall Color at Evergreen of Colonial Heights

10:00am; then, Fall Fest 12:00-3:00pm. Info: call 423-245-4769.

- SEP 24 Tame the Invasives at Warriors' Path State Park  
9:00am-12:00pm. Help eradicate several species of noxious, non-native "weeds" around the park's Hammock Campground area. Registration and Waiver: [https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need\\_id=716290](https://tnstateparksvolunteer.galaxydigital.com/need/detail/?need_id=716290) . Contact: 423-239-8531.
- SEP 24-25 Fall Folk Arts Festival at Exchange Place in Kingsport  
10:00am-5:00pm Saturday; 12:00-5:00pm Sunday. \$5 adults, children under 12 free. 423-288-6071 or [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info).
- SEP 27 Why Trees Die  
12:00pm. Guest Speaker: Chris Ramsey. UT-TSU Extension-Sullivan County Garden Series. In person or virtual. 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Call 423-574-1919 to register.
- OCT 1 Planting Beautiful Fall & Winter Containers at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Tips for planting beautiful fall & winter containers that will last. Cost: Free. Registration is requested. <https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.
- OCT 1 Birding at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- OCT 1 Bird Walk with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter  
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- OCT 2 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.
- OCT 3 NETMGA Membership Meeting.  
6:00pm-Doors open. Speaker: Susie Morrison. Ron Ramsey Ag Center at 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville
- OCT 4 Garden Insects-Integrated Pest Management  
12:00pm. Guest Speaker: Seth Whitehouse. UT-TSU Extension-Sullivan County Garden Series. In person or virtual. 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Call 423-574-1919 to register.
- OCT 8 Growing Your Own Fruit Trees at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Tips for growing and caring for your own fruit trees. Cost: Free. Registration is requested. <https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.
- OCT 8 Composting at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- OCT 8 Bird Walk with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter  
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Contact: 423-543-5808.

- OCT 8-9 Harvest Festival at Rocky Mount State Historic Site  
10:00am-5:00pm. Living history tours of the Cobb farm, Demonstrations on site will include blacksmithing, fireplace cooking, apple butter making, apple cider pressing, plus local craft artisans, and much more. Info: <https://www.rockymountmuseum.com/events/event-four-z9cp8>
- OCT 15 Caring For Your Own Lawn at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Guest Speaker: Kathleen Wilson, UTK Extension. Tips on Caring for Your Lawn & The Importance of Soil Health. Cost: Free. Registration is requested.  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.
- OCT 15 Water Garden Winterization at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- OCT 15 Bird Walk with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter  
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- OCT 15 Gardening Series with Ben Hunter  
9:00am-12:00pm. Ben Hunter, will share his experiences and techniques for winterizing your garden. Meet in the park Gathering Room. Free admission. To register:  
<https://reserve.tnstateparks.com/register/gardening-seminar-ben-hunter-10-15-22>. Contact: 423-543-5808
- OCT 20 SAPS Program – Susan Martin  
7:00pm. Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market St. Info: phone 423-348-6572 or email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), <https://saps.us/>.
- OCT 22 Trees & Shrubs for Fall/Winter Color at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Tips on Growing Beautiful Trees & Shrubs for Fall & Winter Color.  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.
- OCT 22 Natives for Fall Color at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- OCT 22 Bird Walk with the Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter  
8:00am. Meet other birders and naturalists at Sycamore Shoals for a morning of birding during the migratory season. Contact: 423-543-5808.
- OCT 29 Halloween Kids Day Event at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Fall Family Fun, Giveaways, Refreshments, Coupons, Kid's Crafts & More! For information call 423-282-3431.

