



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 19, Issue 6 Nov-Dec 2022

## 2022 Is Almost Over!

I don't know about you but I am astonished at how quickly November has arrived. I feel like I missed the entire summer this year.

Now it's time to finish those fall yard chores and think about the holidays.

If you still need 2022 continuing education hours there are some 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 **November 7**, 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane in Blountville.

### NETMGA DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY

**December 5.** Details about this event will be provided at a later time.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Upcoming SAPS Programs
- Exchange Place Wreath-Making Workshops
- Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place
- Featured Projects
- Sue Stanley Article
- November/December Calendar of Events

## Mark Your Calendar!

### November SAPS Program

Lee Rumble, Certified Arborist and UT Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, will discuss "*Best Management Practices for Selecting, Planting, and Establishing Woody Ornamentals and Trees in the Landscape*" on Thursday, **November 17**, at 7 p.m. at BrightRidge Auditorium, 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354) in Johnson City. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) the program is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), or see <https://saps.us/>.



Learn the best management strategies for selecting, planting, and establishing woody ornamentals and trees in your landscape. Lee will discuss why we love trees, the benefits of our urban landscapes, initial considerations to make prior to planting, the best time of year to plant, and how to select the best plant material from your local garden center. From there, the talk will segue into the landscape and expand on proper planting and general maintenance practices that should be implemented in those first few critical years after planting your new nursery stock.

Lee Rumble is an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent in Knox County. As a Tennessee native originally from Nashville, he has always considered East Tennessee to be his “forever home.” Lee received his International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Arborist Certification in May of 2010 after nearly a decade in the arboricultural industry. This milestone became the inspiration for his future educational endeavors. Immediately thereafter, he began following his passions and by 2019 had completed an A.S. in Horticulture, a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, and a M.S. in Botany—even conducting his master’s research in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Lee’s close working relationship with the public prior to his schooling, along with his desire to educate others is precisely what led him to UT Extension. After graduation, he immediately sought out to find a role that would allow him to continue to be both a life-long learner and an educator in east Tennessee.

Lee works closely with commercial landscapers, arborists, and the residents of Knox County in order to promote the proper management and care of urban and rural landscapes. In his spare time, Lee can be found somewhere among the trees. Most commonly, this means backpacking in the Smokies, mountain biking, or even in a climbing saddle high up in the treetops!

## Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreath Making Workshops on Tuesday, **November 29**, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and on Wednesday, **November 30**, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Participants will learn basic wreath making techniques, the differences in the various boughs, how to embellish with natural accents, and will create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. Both beginners and experienced wreath makers are welcome.



All materials - a variety of fragrant greenery, cones, dried flowers, etc. along with wreath form and wire - will be provided. Participants should bring hand pruners and any extra materials or special decorations they may wish to add.

The workshop fee is \$35 and includes all materials and light refreshments. These are very popular classes so don't wait to register. To reserve your place, first please check availability and then mail check, payable to "Exchange Place," to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. To check availability or for more information, email Joy Moore: [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com)

For the safety of all, registration is limited to facilitate social distancing, and masks may be required depending on COVID conditions in the area at the time of the workshops. **Registration deadline is November 25.** Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Proceeds from the workshops go to Exchange Place's restoration efforts.

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

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held on Saturday, **December 3**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fresh greenery, wreaths and roping, along with unique folk arts and handcrafts created by a wide variety of regional artisans will be on sale. The celebration also features hands-on experiences for all ages and demonstrations of wintertime activities on the 19th century farmstead. Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. The day concludes with the free traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail, Exchange Place's gift to the community, at 4:15 p.m. For more information, please call 423-288-6071 or see [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info) .

## ***“Featured Project” – Hospital Gardens of Johnson City***

Master Gardeners continue to provide pleasant, therapeutic gardens where patients, family members, and staff can relax and refresh. Select gardens at JCMC, Niswonger Children’s Hospital and the St Jude Tri-Cities Affiliate Clinic are planted and maintained by NETMGA members.



At Woodridge Hospital we continue to take care of the entrance gardens and a courtyard butterfly garden. In addition, we were requested to upgrade gardens in an activity courtyard, enhancing that area with more color. Choosing plants that could withstand stray volleyballs and overthrown cornhole bags proved to be an interesting challenge.





We also added the Ronald McDonald House backyard family garden to our work list. With monetary help from a NETMGA grant, we were able to enhance the garden with colorful shrubs, perennials and re-seeding annuals to make the area more pleasant for young families who temporarily reside there.



More volunteers are welcome. Contact Barbara Voigt if you are interested in this community service project. [Voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:Voigt7b@comcast.net) (423) 467-2013

## ***“Featured Project” – Rocky Mount Historical Site***

Take a step back in time and experience Tennessee history in a gorgeous and peaceful setting. Rocky Mount State Historic Site is home of the famous Cobb house and other historic structures and is well-known for being the first the capital of the Southwest Territory in the late 1700s. On Rocky Mount’s 50 plus acres, visitors will find a flock of authentic Cotswold sheep, a blacksmith shop, and gardens maintained by Master Gardeners. Oh, and what a year our master gardeners had this year. Besides maintaining all the various gardens that have been nurtured by our gardeners; Rocky Mount added 15.5 areas to our already 40 plus areas.



To honor the wife of a very generous donor, a group of 2021 Master Gardeners took on the project of turning a field of weeds into Sonja's Garden. They are in the first year of a five-year plan. This spring and summer the garden was filled with blooming flowers. We are looking forward to the next couple of years. Thank members of class of 2021, not only for assisting maintaining other gardens on the main site, but taking on a big project. That is not the only Master Gardener Class project. The class of 2022 took on the project of enhancing the entrance of the Rocky Mount Historical Site. Again, from an area of weeds, clay and rocks, the class of 2022 put in dozens of native plants. Before planting they had to enhance the soil with tons of soil and compost. They also cleaned up the front sign area that had been neglected for too long. Next spring, the entrance should be another show stopper for visitors.

Thanks to Hills Tractor, Rocky Mount receives a new, large farm tractor each year. This tractor has been a great productive enhancement. We have wood chips delivered to us on a regular basis. Now when we need mulch, we just run the tractor across the road and bring back a couple of buckets. Also, cleaning up areas been great (some of the gardeners were mowing the grass across the street with a hand mower!). Now due to another generous donor we have a John Deere mower. Those gardeners really can operate that zero turn.

The Master Gardeners have been available to provide tours of the herb, cutting, vegetable, enslaved, and butterfly gardens at most Rocky Mount Events. Now Sonja's Garden is also available for tours. Besides providing tours, maintaining, planting, planning, various gardens they have also put on several seminars and workshops on several projects. The seminars have been a big hit with those attending and providing Rocky Mount with a good fundraiser.

End of the year and gardens have been prepared for the winter. However, the Master Gardeners will be busy this winter doing hardscape projects. But before that they will be providing greens to decorate the Rocky Mount Historical Site for Christmas. Hope to see you at Candlelight Christmas, where several of the Master Gardeners will be in period dress to celebrate a 18<sup>th</sup> century Christmas.

For more information about the Rocky Mount Master Gardener Project, contact Don Davis at [donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com) .



Overhead view of Cobb vegetable and enslaved garden.



Enslaved Garden demonstrates plants that the African-American's grew



## A Cut Flower Garden for a Small Space

Buying flowers for bouquets at the grocery store is frustrating. We don't know when they were picked, so we have no clue how long they will last. Most only lasted a week at best. After years of doing this, I vowed to build my own cutting garden someday.

I envisioned going out in the garden in the morning with a cup of coffee in one hand and the snippers in the other to cut flowers for a vase of fresh flowers that would last for weeks. I only had a small area surrounding our heat pump and had several perennials in there already. I usually planted low growing annuals around them in the summer. Because of the small area, I planned to limit myself to only one or two plants of each variety to keep the sizes down and made plans with a neighbor to give her the excess plants when it was time to divide them. Choosing the best plants turned out to be a challenge!



My goal was to have flowers blooming all summer and well into fall. I already had Phlox, Peonies, and Shasta Daisies, but I needed more variety. I had read an article in Southern Living that advised looking at the areas in your home where you'd like to have flowers and match your colors to it. Since we like warm colors, I focused on flowers in shades of yellow, white, red, orange, and blue or purple as accents. It's taken more than two years for me to get it done and we've loved it this year. Color is personal for most of us, so using my own home's color palate sure seemed like an innovative idea.

Size is another consideration. Plants need to average three feet tall and wide. You want to be able to cut your stems a little each time you add new water to the vase so they need to be long to start with. Plants can also have multiple stems as well as single. It helps give the arrangement stability. I'm sharing the list below:

My plant list consists of **Perennials**: Chrysanthemums 'French Vanilla', 'Lady's Daisy', 'Katelli Bronze' and 'Paridso White'. Rudbeckia 'Indian Summer' and 'Prairie Sun'. Echinacea purple 'Magnus'; Salvia Nemerosa 'Blue Marvel', and Nepeta 'Walker's Low'. Inca Alstroemera 'Lolly' and 'White Ice'. Peony Lactiflora 'Sarah Barnhardt', Phlox 'David', Tall Pink Phlox (a pass along plant). **Annuals**: Zinnia Zahara 'Sunburst', 'Double White' and Gold Treasure Hybrid Zinnia.

Sue Stanley, MG since 2006, Gardening in Knoxville TN.

**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**

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

## 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 [dh535651@gmail.com](mailto:dh535651@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 [dh535651@gmail.com](mailto:dh535651@gmail.com)

**Kingsport Pepper Festival**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [dh535651@gmail.com](mailto:dh535651@gmail.com)

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

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



**2022 OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT Karen Rowell  
423-737-0332  
[karenrowell94@gmail.com](mailto:karenrowell94@gmail.com)

VICE PRESIDENT John Hitchcock  
423-525-8587  
[jghitchcock@comcast.net](mailto:jghitchcock@comcast.net)

TREASURER Karen Todd  
423-502-0575  
[ktodd@systemsplus-inc.com](mailto:ktodd@systemsplus-inc.com)

Mary Ann Lovelace  
423-392-4990  
[lovelaceclan@chartertn.net](mailto:lovelaceclan@chartertn.net)

SECRETARY Mary Cain  
423-361-0223  
[cain01@yahoo.com](mailto:cain01@yahoo.com)

ADVISOR Chris Ramsey  
423-646-9043  
[cwramsey@utk.edu](mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu)



**MEMBERSHIP/CERTIFICATION**

Mary Cain  
423-361-0223  
[cainm01@yahoo.com](mailto:cainm01@yahoo.com)

PROJECTS Don Davis  
423-854-0152  
[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

MENTORS  
OPEN

2021 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE  
TBA

PROGRAMS Teresa Gaffner  
956-874-4544  
[zahmscat@gmail.com](mailto:zahmscat@gmail.com)

HOSPITALITY  
Kathy & Larry Wagner  
423-323-5446  
[kwagner@chartertn.net](mailto:kwagner@chartertn.net)

**2022 COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

WEBSITE Carl Voigt  
423-467-2013  
[voigt7@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7@comcast.net)  
Barbara Voigt  
423-467-2013  
[voigt7b@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7b@comcast.net)

PUBLICITY  
Brenda McKinnis  
423-946-2769  
[jbmckinnis4@embarqmail.com](mailto:jbmckinnis4@embarqmail.com)

Nancy Shilling  
423-833-1420  
[nancyshilling@gmail.com](mailto:nancyshilling@gmail.com)

COMMUNICATIONS  
Heather Duby  
865-556-7630  
[kelshei@gmail.com](mailto:kelshei@gmail.com)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
Betts Leach  
423-571-8662  
[BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

FACEBOOK  
Heather Duby  
865-556-7630  
[kelshei@gmail.com](mailto:kelshei@gmail.com)

**Feed the birds!**



## NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 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.**

CHECK THE SITES BELOW MONTHLY FOR CLASSES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS:  
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/>

NOV 5 Spring Blooming Bulbs at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. How and when to plant spring blooming bulbs for best results. Cost: Free.  
Registration is requested; seating is limited.  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.

NOV 6 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.

NOV 7 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm. Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville

NOV 12 Caring for Indoor House Plants at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Best practices for caring for indoor house plants. Cost: Free. Registration is requested; seating is limited. <https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.

NOV 12 Christmas Open House at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.

- NOV 12 Fall Day of Caring at Warriors' Path State Park  
8:30am-12:30pm. Cleaning, weeding, and mulching at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground. Contact Gwyn Duncan [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net) .Rain date is November 19.
- NOV 17 SAPS Program – Lee Rumble  
7 p.m. Lee Rumble, Certified Arborist and UT Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, will discuss "*Best Management Practices for Selecting, Planting, and Establishing Woody Ornamentals and Trees in the Landscape*" at BrightRidge Auditorium, 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354) in Johnson City. is free and the public is invited. For more information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), or see <https://saps.us/> .
- NOV 19 Wreath: Make & Take at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- NOV 26 Porch Pots: Make & Take at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
10:00am. Info: call 423-245-4769.
- NOV 29-30 Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place Living History Farm, Kingsport  
6:30-8:30-pm (Tues.) & 10:00am-12:00pm (Wed.). Workshop fee-\$35. For more information, email Joy Moore: [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com)
- DEC 1 Winter Tree Keys at Warriors' Path State Park  
3:30-5:30pm. Practice using a few different botanical keys to learn the names of our native trees. Learn winter trees by their bark, buds, fallen leaves and more. It's a skill that can help us observe and better understand our "woody neighbors." Besides gaining tree knowledge, each participant will get to take home a pamphlet-key to our local trees. Dress appropriately for weather and walking. Meet at Pool Parking Lot. Cost: \$4. Information: [https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event\\_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-2022B](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-2022B)
- DEC 3 Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, Kingsport  
10:00am-4:00pm. Admission to the festival is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. Information: call 423-288-6071 or see [www.exchangeplace.info](http://www.exchangeplace.info) .
- DEC 4 Orchid Society of East Tennessee – 2 pm Gray Community Center.
- DEC 5 NETMGA Membership Meeting & Christmas Dinner  
Details to be announced.
- DEC 10 Santa Day / Greenery Workshop at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:30am. Family Fun with Santa, Greenery Workshop, Giveaways, Refreshments, Coupons, Kids Crafts, and More!. Cost: Free (with the exception of workshop portions). Registration is requested for workshop. <https://evergreenofjc.com/events/category/seminars/> or call 423-282-3431.



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

<http://netmga.net>

<https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu>



## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please remind me/us of our pledge \_\_\_\_\_ annually

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Indicate month/year

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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)

*University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, 107 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996-4502*