



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

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## Summer Will Become Fall

Here we are...September already! Where did our summer go? It's not too late to plant perennials, shrubs and trees. And it's time to start planting fall crops and to begin thinking about fall garden clean up. Seems like yesterday we were planting for spring and summer! I hope you have had a successful growing season this year in spite of visitors!

Still need 2023 continuing education hours? Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for learning opportunities.



### NETMGA SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting will be on **September 11**, 6:30pm, at Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville.

### NETMGA OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**October 2** Watch your email for details about this event.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Events
- Featured Project: Boundless Playground at Warriors' Path
- Featured Project: Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Site and Museum
- Tips On Maintaining a Productive Cutting Garden
- September/October Calendar of Events

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Herb Saplings Meeting

**September 7**, 7 pm at Exchange Place. "Preserving Herbs for Medicinal and Culinary Uses" with Susan Scheer. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

### September SAPS Program

Award-winning designer, speaker and dramatist Kirk R. Brown will present "Olmsted: Environmental Visionary" on **Thursday, September 21**, at 7 pm, at the Kingsport Higher Education Center, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS), the program is free and the public is invited. For more information call 423-348-6572 or email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)



Frederick Law Olmsted was a surveyor, seaman, merchant/clerk, farmer, author, abolitionist, world-traveler, publisher, and creator. Known for his design work on New York's Central Park, Olmsted went on to work on many well known parks and projects from the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to Mount Royal Park in Montreal, to Stanford University's campus in California to Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Join us for this educational and entertaining dramatic presentation on the life of the father of Landscape Architecture who created cities out of the American wilderness and began a conservation movement still challenging the world today.

With a background in theater Kirk R. Brown took up his personification of John Bartram at the Perennial Plant Alliance annual meeting in Philadelphia in 2008. He soon added landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmsted to his repertoire and has gone on to present his alter egos nationally to numerous other organizations. Kirk is also a well-respected garden designer, keynote speaker, horticulturist, business lecturer and design class presenter. He is Past President of GardenComm: Garden Communicators International. He has served on volunteer committees for regional, state and national green industry associations. For twenty years, he served as Business Manager and Designer for Joanne Kosticky Garden Design. In that position, his gardens won outstanding design awards from PPA, APLD and PLNA. He served as National Outreach Coordinator for Magnolia Plantation and Gardens: America's Oldest Garden. Most recently he is a judge for America in Bloom and lecturer for many states' National Garden Club Schools.

## **Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival**

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 51st annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on **Saturday, September 23**, from 10 am to 5 pm, and **Sunday, September 24**, 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 hearthside cooking. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, call 423-288-6071 or see <https://exchangeplacetn.org>

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).

**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**

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

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

Master Gardeners are rehabbing the fern glade area of the **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** Braille Trail at the Boundless Playground at Warriors’ Path State Park. In the spring we cleared brush and logs that covered the area after a storm a few years ago. We found several ferns, Seersucker Sedge, Cardinal Flowers and Blue Lobelia.



Plants are missing from some of the stations along the Braille Trail, so we are consolidating them into the fern glade. This fall we will be planting Virginia Bluebells, Witch Hazel, Cardinal Flowers, Blue Lobelia, Solomon’s Seal and Hearts-a-Bustin.

Help is needed for our **Fall Day of Caring** that will be held Saturday, Nov. 18 starting at 8:30am. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP.

Other workdays are scheduled as needed throughout the season, but work can be done anytime the park is open. Warriors’ Park is a great place to learn about native plants. If you’re interested in helping at WPSP, contact Gwyn Duncan (423.239.0460, [geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net)).

## ***“Featured Project” – Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Site***

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 garden formally opened in May 2022 and was certified as a Monarch Butterfly Waystation that same year.

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
- Creating a “community of plants” for museum guests to enjoy

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. Our Master Gardeners enjoy a great relationship with the museum staff and coordinate plantings with them to ensure that any new plants are representative of plant fossils found on the site. Our gardeners and the museum have hosted on-site garden-related meetings with area organizations such as SAPS and the Wild Ones.



If you are interested in helping at the Discovery Garden, contact John Hitchcock at 423-525-8587 or [jghitchcock25@gmail.com](mailto:jghitchcock25@gmail.com)

## Tips On Maintaining a Productive Cutting Garden

You finally got around to planting that cutting garden. You planted some perennials and some annuals, and they came up beautifully. Now you have to maintain that beautiful garden. Where do you start? Here are some tips that have helped me.



It first begins with knowing the growing habits of the plants you choose. As an example, Zinnias are almost always on everyone's list for cut flowers. Their only drawback is the fact that they bloom like crazy at first then slow as the season progresses. To cause the plants to produce more flowers, I pinch my Zinnias when they are only 8-10 inches tall and have at least 3 or 4 true leaves. Pinching means cutting the main stem back a few inches above a healthy set of leaves. This causes the plant to create two new stems in its place and creates double the blooms, plus a bushier plant. It also delays blooming a few weeks later than it would have but it's worth the wait!

I sometimes pinch only half my Shasta Daisies so I can have early and late flowers. You can just pinch it with your fingers or use some sharp snipers. Be sure they're clean so you don't spread diseases. I like to keep a container of bleach wipes handy to clean them with. Examples of plants that need pinching are Zinnias, Shasta Daisy, Cosmos, Celosia, Snapdragons, and Dalias. Plants that don't need pinching are plants like those that have multiple stems such as Coreopsis and Lisianthus.

Another way to get more Zinna flowers is with succession planting. Many people plant them two or three times during the growing season. Zinnias are so easy to grow!

Watering plants in the morning is usually best, plus keep the water off the leaves to discourage mildew. Try to avoid overhead watering and aim your water at the root system if you're hand watering. If you see some plants wilting, check the soil first to see if it's actually dry before watering. Go ahead and water if they're dry so they don't stay wilted very long. Just don't overwater because that can cause root rot.

I fertilize my annuals and perennials every two to three weeks during the growing season with a water- soluble liquid fertilizer for flowers like Miracle-Gro. Most annuals are heavy feeders and appreciate the boost. The flowering perennials appreciate it too.

Mulch in the garden is a must. Weeds just soak up the moisture and the fertilizer. I use shredded bark, but you can use a variety of products, even gravel. The main reason for mulch is to conserve water in the soil and eliminate weeds. You don't want to have to pull weeds!

## **Tips On Maintaining a Productive Cutting Garden (continued)**


Deadheading, or cutting a spent flower down to a new set of leaves, is vital to keeping the flowers going. If you don't deadhead, the plant will start to make seeds and stop making new flowers. Cutting flowers for the vase is a form of deadheading too. For many plants, the more you cut, the more flowers you get.

There's nothing worse than seeing your best tall plants bent over or lying on the ground after a storm. You can support them with a little help. Some gardeners plant in rows and use stakes and ties. Others with more randomly placed plants use things like grow-through supports, plastic grids, individual stakes, or other commercially available plant supports. As an example, I grow all my Garden Phlox with three-foot-tall grow-through grids. By the time they start flowering the grids can't be seen through the foliage. My peony plants have a big round grow-through support as well as the hardy Chrysanthemums. It's a good idea to set up a support system before a storm occurs.

Cutting those beautiful flowers should be done early in the day. Use clean snips and bring a clean half bucket of water to put them in as you cut. Strip the leaves after you make the cut and drop the cutting in the water. I bring them in and add more water up to the base of the flowers, then let them stand overnight. This keeps them fully hydrated for arranging the next day. If you don't want to wait, at least let them stand for a few hours before arranging them in a vase.

Now it's time to enjoy your creations!

Sue Stanley, Certified Tennessee Master Gardener since 2006, gardening in Knoxville TN

<b>Chris' Corner</b>		<b>CHRIS RAMSEY</b> SULLIVAN COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT (423) 574-1919 <a href="mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu">cwramsey@utk.edu</a>
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Returning soon!

## 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  
Pat Mazurkiewicz 423-323-1644  
[robmazur@chartertn.net](mailto:robmazur@chartertn.net)

**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 [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com)

**Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Museum**  
John Hitchcock 423-525-8587 [jghitchcock25@gmail.com](mailto:jghitchcock25@gmail.com)

**Exchange Place Living History Farm** Kingsport  
Earl Hockin 423-817-5473 [ehockin@yahoo.com](mailto:ehockin@yahoo.com)

**Harvest of Hope Community Garden** Kingsport  
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 [dave\\_carla@chartertn.net](mailto:dave_carla@chartertn.net)

**Johnson City Hospitals** 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 423-764-3336 [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 423-440-9236  
[vjornmaddux@embargmail.com](mailto:vjornmaddux@embargmail.com)  
Betts Leach 423-571-8662 [BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com)

**Unicoi County Hospital** Erwin  
Gina Clark 423-956-2426 [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**  
Wes Walker 804-824-5308 [wes.walker@me.com](mailto:wes.walker@me.com)

**Kingsport MeadowView Home Show**  
Doug Hilton 423-239-9433 [dh535651@gmail.com](mailto:dh535651@gmail.com)

**Bristol PepperFest**  
Wes Walker 804-824-5308 [wes.walker@me.com](mailto:wes.walker@me.com)

**Kingsport Tomato Festival-TBD**

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





**2023 OFFICERS**

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

VICE PRESIDENT John Hitchcock  
423-525-8587  
[jghitchcock25@gmail.com](mailto:jghitchcock25@gmail.com)

TREASURER 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 John Hitchcock  
423-525-8587  
[jghitchcock25@gmail.com](mailto:jghitchcock25@gmail.com)

2023 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES  
Valerie Jondahl 336-354-6049  
[valzoo35@gmail.com](mailto:valzoo35@gmail.com)

Justus Fry 423-348-1207  
[justusfry@yahoo.com](mailto:justusfry@yahoo.com)

Greg Lawson 818-383-8461  
[jake.g.lawson@gmail.com](mailto:jake.g.lawson@gmail.com)

PROGRAMS Susie Morrison  
423-279-8521  
[susie.m188@yahoo.com](mailto:susie.m188@yahoo.com)

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

**2023 COMMITTEE**

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@gmail.com](mailto:jbmckinnis4@gmail.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!**



## SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2023 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/>

Asheville Botanical Gardens: <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.org/events-classes/adult-classes/>

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/>

**Orchid Society of East Tennessee** meets first Sunday of every other month (Feb. through December), 2 pm Gray Community Center.  
<https://www.facebook.com/OrchidSocietyOfEastTennessee/>

SEP 2 The Dirt on No Till Gardening with Shelia Mathes  
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. What no till gardening is, how it is beneficial, and how to do it yourself. Registration: 423-282-3431.

SEP 2 Fall Vegetable Gardening with Earl Hockin  
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration appreciated. Information and registration: [Fall Vegetable Gardening - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](https://www.egardenplace.com)

SEP 7 Herb Saplings Meeting at Exchange Place  
7:00pm. "Preserving Herbs for Medicinal and Culinary Uses" with Susan Scheer.

- SEP 8-10 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. Information/registration: [3cc564\\_de833f716db34bf29bdd77639c6cd6a8.pdf \(friendsfroanmtn.org\)](https://www.friendsfroanmtn.org/3cc564_de833f716db34bf29bdd77639c6cd6a8.pdf)
- SEP 9 Planting Fall and Winter Containers with Shaun Barr  
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Learn to design beautiful containers perfect for fall and winter. Registration: 423-282-3431.
- SEP 9 Fall Porch Pots Make & Take  
11:00am-12:30pm. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Create your very own custom mixed Fall planters. Workshop fee TBD but estimated around \$40 and includes container, soil, & plants. Registration is required to hold your spot. *Information and registration:* [11:00AM Fall Porch Pots: MAKE & TAKE - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](https://www.egardenplace.com/11:00AM-Fall-Porch-Pots-MAKE-amp-TAKE-Evergreen-of-Colonial-Heights)
- SEP 9 Fall Porch Pots Make & Take  
2:00-3:30pm. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Create your very own custom mixed Fall planters. Workshop fee TBD but estimated around \$40 and includes container, soil, & plants. Registration is required to hold your spot. *Information and registration:* [2:00PM Fall Porch Pots: MAKE & TAKE - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](https://www.egardenplace.com/2:00PM-Fall-Porch-Pots-MAKE-amp-TAKE-Evergreen-of-Colonial-Heights)
- SEP 11 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm. Ron Ramsey Ag Center, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville
- SEP 16 Fall Festival  
Evergreen of Johnson City. Fall Family Fun, Giveaways, Refreshments, Coupons, Kid's Crafts, Live Music, Hay Rides & More! Information: 423-282-3431.
- SEP 16 Sorghum Festival at Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site  
8:00am-4:00pm. Join local volunteers as they demonstrate how sorghum is made by watching them cook down the juices into sweet molasses. The team will be showing the step by step process of making sorghum, including having Mules turning the mill. A biscuit and gravy breakfast with sorghum will be served from 8am to 11am. Breakfast is \$2 extra with admission. Admission: \$6. Tipton-Haynes members are free! Information: 423-926-3631 or [Tipton-Haynes Historic Site | Upcoming Events Sorghum Festival](https://www.tipton-haynes.com/upcoming-events/sorghum-festival)
- SEP 16 Fall Lawn Care  
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration appreciated. Information and registration: [Fall Lawncare - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](https://www.egardenplace.com/fall-lawncare-evergreen-of-colonial-heights)
- SEP 21 SAPS Program – Kirk R. Brown  
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).
- SEP 23 Growing Perennials with Lou Biggerstaff  
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Learn best practices for fall perennials. Registration: 423-282-3431.

SEP 23 Fall Celebration

12:00-3:00pm. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Four mini seminars. Free for the family! We will have a photo area, "Mum walk" similar to a traditional cake walk, kid's crafts, & more. *Information:* [Fall Celebration - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](http://egardenplace.com)

SEP 24 Fall Flora and Foliage Hike - Rocky Fork State Park

3:00-5:00pm. Join Park Ranger Cory Franklin for an easy 2 mile hike to learn about the trees and how to identify them with or without their leaves as well as the fall flowers of Rocky Fork. Information/registration: 423-443-6429 or [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)

SEP 30 Planting Fall Bulbs with Shaun Barr

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Planting tips for maximizing your spring color by successful fall planting. Registration: 423-282-3431.

SEP 30 Seminar: Perennials

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration appreciated. Information and registration: [Seminar: Perennials - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](http://egardenplace.com)

OCT 2 NETMGA Membership Meeting. Information will be provided at a later time.

OCT 7 Growing Your Own Fruit Trees with Chris Lyons

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Tips on growing and caring for your own fruit trees. Registration: 423-282-3431.

OCT 7 Seminar: Trees

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration appreciated. Information and registration: [Seminar: Trees - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](http://egardenplace.com)

OCT 14 Fall Lawn Care with Andrew Valk

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Tips on caring for your lawn and the importance of soil health. Registration: 423-282-3431.

OCT 14 Seminar: Birding

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration appreciated. Information and registration: [Seminar: Birding - Evergreen of Colonial Heights \(egardenplace.com\)](http://egardenplace.com)

OCT 14-15 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: [Harvest Festival — Rocky Mount State Historic Site \(rockymountmuseum.com\)](http://rockymountmuseum.com)

OCT 21 Trees and Shrubs for Fall/Winter Color with Chris Lyons

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Tips on growing beautiful trees and shrubs for fall and winter color. Registration: 423-282-3431.

OCT 28 Halloween Kids Night Event

Evergreen of Johnson City. Lights, Trick or Treat Scavenger Hunt, Giveaways, Refreshments, Coupons, Kid's Crafts & More! Information: 423-282-3431.