



Official Publication

# Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 21, Issue 2 Mar-Apr 2024

## Winter Is Still Here BUT...

...it definitely is beginning to feel like Spring. It's still too early to rush out and plant flowering annuals and veggies, except for the cool season varieties. We can still have freezing temps and snow (yes, I said snow!) Last year, in May, I stood in the greenhouse where I work and watched the snow pour down, so...just don't be in too big a hurry. You can still be planning.

It's also a good time to get a jump on 2024 continuing education hours. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for learning opportunities.



### NETMGA MARCH BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting will be in **March 4**, 6:30pm, at Washington County Extension Office, 206 W Main St., Jonesborough.

### NETMGA APRIL MEMBERSHIP MTG & PROGRAM

**April 1**, 5:45pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center or via Zoom. Details on page 2 of this newsletter.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NETMGA Programs
- Mark Your Calendar!
- Featured Projects
- March/April 2024 Calendar of Events

## NETMGA Programs – April and May 2024

We are excited to present two very special upcoming events in April and May.

A social event, with popcorn and other snacks, starting at 5:45pm, will be held for Master Gardeners prior to the April and May Zoom broadcasts at the Ron Ramsey location. The Zoom broadcasts, starting at 6:30pm, will be available on the big screens at the Ron Ramsey Center. Registration is required. **Please indicate your choice via the appropriate link below to attend the meetings in-person/Zoom or by Zoom from your home.**

Jess Zander is presenting a Zoom program for the region in April and Doug Tallamy will present the May program. (For those of you who were expecting a meeting in June, Doug was only available for us in May, so we wanted to take advantage of his availability.)

These Master Gardener Zoom events will be open to Master Gardeners as well any interested participants from our region.

Please contact Brenda McKinnis – 423-946-2769 if you have any questions.

### April 1 Program: Jess Zander – “Spring Cleanup and Amending the Soil”

More and more people are recognizing the benefits of a spring cleanup instead of fall. What does a cleanup consist of exactly, when is the best time to do it and how is it connected to healthy soil?

Jessica Zander is a garden coach and consultant based in the Boston area (zone 6b), doing virtual consultations all over the country and Canada. She has been gardening since the early 1990s and she started You Can Do It Gardening in 2022, to help people feel more confident about doing it themselves. After a 30-year career in nonprofit finance and operations she left the field in June of 2023 in response to the demand for coaching services. She teaches skills, provides guidance and suggestions, and works collaboratively and efficiently with clients to make small and large improvements in their outdoor spaces. Follow on social media @youcandoitgardening

Jessica Zander, 4/1/2024, 5:45pm, **IN-PERSON Social Event and Zoom**  
**Spring Cleanup and Amending the Soil**

Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/Zanderinperson>

Jessica Zander 4/1/2024, 6:30pm, **ZOOM Only**  
**Spring Cleanup and Amending the Soil**

Registration:

[https://tennessee.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuGvrDkiGNK9GKs6nIZJj\\_QluqRMSXA](https://tennessee.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuGvrDkiGNK9GKs6nIZJj_QluqRMSXA)

X

<https://tiny.utk.edu/NETGMAJessica>

## **May 6 Program: Doug Tallamy – “I know You're Very Busy but . . .I want to learn more about nature gardening”**

Nearly every day I get emails from people who have read my books and heard my talks and yet still have questions about ecological landscaping. These are good, thoughtful questions about ecology and evolution, biodiversity, invasive species, insect declines, native and non-native plants, conservation and restoration, residential and city landscapes, urban issues, oak biology, keystone plants, Homegrown National Park, monarchs, supporting wildlife at home, and more. In this talk I address as many of these queries as I can with hope that my answers will further motivate people to help restore ecosystem function where they live, work, play, worship, and farm.

Doug Tallamy is the T. A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 106 research publications and has taught insect-related courses for 41 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book *Bringing Nature Home* was published by Timber Press in 2007, *The Living Landscape*, co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014; *Nature's Best Hope*, a New York Times bestseller, was released in February 2020, and his latest book, *The Nature of Oaks*, was released in March 2021. His awards include recognition from The Garden Writer's Association, Audubon, The National Wildlife Federation, Western Carolina University, The Garden Club of America, and The American Horticultural Association. Doug lives with his wife, Cindy, on their restored property in Oxford, PA.

Doug Tallamy, 5/6/2024, 5:45pm, **IN-PERSON Social Event and Zoom**  
***I know You're Very Busy but . . .I want to learn more about nature gardening***  
Registration: <https://tiny.utk.edu/Tallamyinperson>

Doug Tallamy, 5/6/2024, 6:30pm, **ZOOM Only**  
***I know You're Very Busy but . . .I want to learn more about nature gardening.***

Registration:

<https://tennessee.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0uc-qspz0pHdSx0-0v-Xfo3sSWPDiT7hnx>

<https://tiny.utk.edu/NETMGADoug>

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **March Herb Saplings Meeting**

**March 7** at 7 pm at Exchange Place. “Herbal Container Gardening” with Susan Scheer. Susan will discuss choosing herbs for containers, the pros and cons of different kinds of pots, what to put in the bottom of big pots, making your own soil mix using more sustainable materials, and more. Anyone with an interest in herbs is invited to attend. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time. For more info, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)

## Green and Growing Seminars 2024

Keep Kingsport Beautiful will hold its annual Green and Growing Seminars from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays in March at the Kingsport Public Library Auditorium. Seminars are free, and no registration is required. The seminars are:

**March 7:** "Germination Techniques" with Joe Gorman of Pollinator Rare Plants

**March 14:** "Spring Planting and Succession" with Master Gardener Earl Hockin

**March 21:** "Earth-friendly Gardening" with Master Gardener Joy Moore

**March 28:** "Creating a Four-Season Cutting Garden" with Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farms

For more information, contact Sharon Hayes at [shayes@KingsportChamber.org](mailto:shayes@KingsportChamber.org) or call 423-392-8814.

## Wild Ones Native Plant Propagation-Part 2

The second part of the Wild Ones Native Plant Propagation program is being presented on **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at the greenhouses of Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, VA. Our speaker is Ben Casteel, Horticultural Instructor and Program Coordinator at VHCC. He will cover the propagation of Native Appalachian plants by grafting, cuttings, layering and other asexual methods. This is a good opportunity for some CEU hours and to learn propagation techniques from an expert.

The program starts at 7:00pm and you can either attend in person or watch on Zoom. Attendance in person is limited so you will need to register online at:

[wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com](mailto:wildonesappalachianhighlands@gmail.com)

The Zoom link is:

<https://vccs.zoom.us/j/4710139607>

Meeting ID: 471 013 9607

You can find a map to the greenhouse and more information about upcoming WOA H programs at:

<https://appalachianhighlands.wildones.org/upcoming-events/>

## March SAPS Program: Best of the Unknown Native Perennials

John Manion, Education and Outreach Coordinator at Overhill Gardens, will discuss "Best of the Unknown Native Perennials" on *Thursday, March 21, 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. No registration is needed. For more information phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), or see <http://saps.us/>



Most of us are familiar with the “meat and potatoes” native plant species we should already have - the purple cone flowers, cardinal flowers and the black-eyed Susans. But how about a treasure chest of less-than-common species that will not only add charisma to your plantings, but also broaden the smorgasbord for pollinators. John will shine a spotlight on some of these underutilized gems.

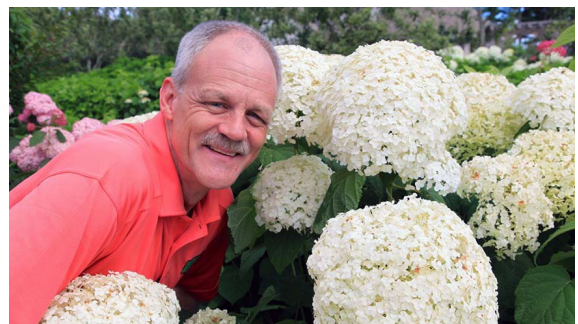
John Manion, though born in Georgia, spent his youth growing up in rural upstate NY where he was one of five children raised by his father, a forester, and his mother, an avid gardener. He has lived in many places in the U.S. and abroad, and, after working in several careers (the longest as an emergency/trauma nurse), he realized his true passion was for plants. After earning an undergraduate degree in plant science at State University of New York at Cobleskill, he was awarded a fellowship to earn a master’s degree in Public Garden Leadership at Cornell University. John has interned and worked at several botanical gardens and arboreta, including the Royal Botanical Garden in Edinburgh, Scotland. After working as Historic Gardens Curator at the Atlanta History Center for two years, John became the Kaul Wildflower Garden Curator at Birmingham Botanical Gardens in Alabama, where he spent 11 years developing and refining a seven-acre collection of native plants – the most comprehensive in the state. Since early 2022 John has been the Education/Outreach Coordinator at Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN. He is passionate about sharing his love for, and extensive knowledge about our native flora and all its related topics; his position at Overhill allows him to do all of this.

### **April Herb Saplings Meeting**

**April 4** at 6pm. Herb of the Year: Yarrow, presented by Christy Shivell. Meeting at Shy Valley Farm, 315 Ridge Road, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Anyone with an interest in herbs is welcome to attend. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time. For more info, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)

### **April SAPS Program: “The Joy of Gardening: The Power of Plants to Change Your Point of View”**

Bryce Lane, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor Emeritus, Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, will present “The Joy of Gardening: The Power of Plants to Change Your Point of View” on Thursday, **April 18**, at 7 p.m. at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 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 phone 423-348-6572, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com), or see <http://saps.us/>.



Gardening has tremendous power to change our perspective, not just in the garden but also in life. Working with plants changes the way we look at all sorts of things. Come see an entertaining and inspiring talk about how gardening can change your life!

Bryce grew up in Western Massachusetts, where he discovered his passion for plants and telling others about them, working at a local garden center through high school and college. After earning his B.S. in plant science from the University of Massachusetts in 1979 and an M.S. in horticulture from The Ohio State University in 1981, he came to the Department of Horticultural Science at NC State University as a Lecturer, teaching in both the two-year and four-year programs. He taught plant identification at NC State for 18 years. In 1987, he became the Undergraduate Coordinator, serving the department in that capacity for 26 years. Bryce taught both large and small courses, for majors and non-majors. In the past 30+ years, he has taught more than 20,000 students. He has received numerous local, regional, and national teaching awards and frequently invited to speak at many workshops and symposia, about teaching as well as horticulture and gardening. He hosted and produced a three-time, Emmy winning UNC TV public television show called "In the Garden with Bryce Lane" which was on the air for 11 seasons. Most importantly, he has been married for 37 years to his high school sweetheart, has two happily married daughters, and six incredible grandchildren.

Bryce retired from NC State in January 2014, and is now spending more time with his family, pursuing the next chapter in his public speaking career, and teaching part time at NC State and the JC Raulston Arboretum. He served as interim director of the JC Raulston Arboretum from July through November 2014. He is an avid gardener who has gardened in the same spot for more than 30 years!

### **Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair**

The 38th Annual **Spring Garden Fair is Saturday, April 27, from 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday, April 28, from 12 – 5 pm at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport.** The oldest garden fair in the region and a favorite among gardeners, the festival will feature thousands of plants for sale - perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs - with the emphasis on natives, herbs and heirlooms (including a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes), along with garden related arts and crafts. Visitors will see heritage breeds of animals and spring activities on a mid-19th century farmstead, as volunteers shear the sheep, spin and weave the wool, cook over the fire, and shape iron over the forge. Children's activities abound as volunteers help children create plant and nature crafts and learn gardening skills. Ol' timey music and foods add to the experience. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, call 423-288-6071.

The Fair is also an educational event that fills the grounds and buildings of the historic site, and gardening experts in specific topics and Master Gardeners will be available to answer home gardening questions throughout the weekend. The Fair strives to be environmentally friendly with recycling and re-using. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own plant carriers and to bring used nursery pots (quarts and larger) for reuse.

## Help Wanted

Master Gardeners have been an important part of the Spring Garden Fair for many years. Exchange Place has a core group of experienced volunteers who are organizing the Fair, but we would love fresh input from other Master Gardeners. If you would like to help on the SGF committee we would welcome your ideas and skills. If you could spare any time the Fair weekend to help with staffing the Master Gardener table, set-up, hospitality, take-down, children's activities, parking, etc., we would be grateful. Volunteer time counts as Master Gardener hours. To volunteer for this fun event or for more info, please contact Joy Moore at [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com) or 423-348-6572.

**Exchange Place invites small/hobby growers to participate in the Spring Garden Fair to add to the variety of plants available.** If you are a small grower or know small growers who might be interested in having a booth at the Fair, please let us know. Our participation fee is 10% of gross sales. **Registration deadline is March 15, 2024.** For more information, contact [epfestivals.gf@gmail.com](mailto:epfestivals.gf@gmail.com) or call 423-288-6071.

## ***“Featured Project” - Carver Peace Garden***

The Carver Peace Gardens are organic gardens located at Carver Park in Johnson City. The gardens are a project of the Johnson City Parks & Recreation Department, the Carver Recreation Center, and the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association.

The gardens were originally developed in 2006 with inground garden plots. In 2020 the decision was made to convert to raised beds. Carver Peace Garden now has the equivalent of 138 4 x 4 beds; twenty-eight of those are 4 x 16, seven are 4 x 8 beds and twelve are 4 x 4. All of the beds were productive with just 27 gardeners and the management by the master gardener project team.



The raised beds are rented annually on a first come first serve basis to community members for a nominal fee. Several non-profit groups have rented beds including ETSU Medical Students who donate the yield from their garden to local charity organizations. Every bed was rented.

One program which the Carver Peace Gardeners are very proud of and part of the mission of NETMGA is providing education to the children (Jr. Gees) who attend the after school and summer camp program at Carver Park Garden. The Carver Peace Garden Program for children was developed by Master Gardeners to teach basic gardening skills to urban students. In the past year these Master Gardeners have worked with over 150 children ranging from five to twelve years of age through their after-school programs in the Spring and Fall and the Summer programs. The students learned how to plant, maintain, and harvest raised bed vegetable gardens. A new pollinator garden was created last year to develop the students' understanding of the importance of flowers and pollinators to our ecosystem. There have also been lessons on container gardening, building bird houses, composting, and recycling.

Carver Peace Garden Master Gardeners accomplished several gardening tasks in 2023.

- Two large pollinator gardens on the playground side of the garden were developed. One is a shade garden, and the other is a very beautiful pollinator garden that was planted by the children in the Jr Gees. A cold frame bed was built and yielded carrots.
- The Jr. Gees and master gardeners built a demonstration compost bin.
- We experimented with an irrigation system for a few beds, more work to come in 2024.
- We maintained six perennial flowerbeds on the parking lot side of the garden and one flower garden on the track side of the garden.
- We took care of the fruit trees on the track side of the garden.
- We provided garden produce yield amounts for build it up East Tennessee in exchange for free seeds and plants.

It was a busy year! Between gardening projects, breakfast and luncheons were held to plan and implement ongoing activities.



Some master gardeners participated in everything we do at Carver Peace Garden, while others chose to only participate in certain activities. We welcome new gardeners to join us and find their niche. Talk with Nancy Shilling at 423-833-1420 or Brenda McKinnis at 423-946-2769.

## ***“Featured Project” – Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site***

At Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site, Master Gardeners maintain several gardens: wildflower/butterfly/pollinator gardens, a small kitchen garden, and what is called the slave garden.

In the front Nature/Pollinator gardens, our focus is variety and visual appeal for visitors to the site, AND for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators. Having been designated a Certified Monarch Waystation in 2014 we emphasize native plants and those that attract and/or serve as hosts for Monarchs and other caterpillars.

The Nature/Pollinator gardens contain many plant varieties, including anise hyssop, aromatic aster, native columbine, purple coneflower, orange coneflower, common milkweed, butterfly weed, 2 varieties of swamp milkweed, common milkweed, aster, downy skullcap, great blue lobelia, Virginia Bluebell, huskers red penstemon, anise sage, passion flower, black-eyed susan, pipe vine, and prairie coreopsis (to name a few). These plants provide a succession of blooms through the growing season that provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds and food for caterpillars. We also have several native azaleas, oakleaf hydrangea, summer sweet (clethra), bloodroot, and ostrich ferns along the walkway.

In addition to those native varieties, we also plant zinnias and cosmos to provide additional nectar throughout the summer for emerging new butterflies as well as for visiting butterflies.



We began documenting the types and number of caterpillars in 2015. In the last few summers we noted successful hosting of 100+ Monarch caterpillars, plus Black Swallowtail caterpillars, Gulf Fritillary caterpillars, and numerous Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars. We also spotted close to 4 dozen Monarch chrysalises.



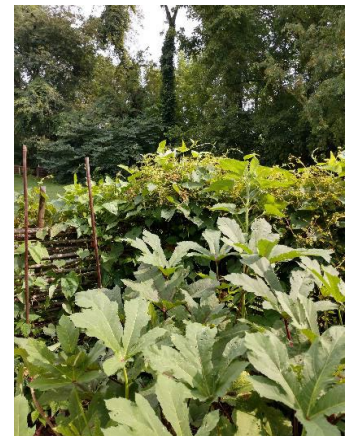
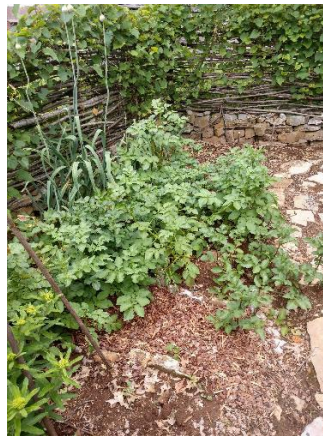
The vegetable gardens at Tipton/Haynes consist of two small plots in the historical area. The Kitchen Garden is representative of a small garden near the house that would have grown those vegetables that need a little extra care and be handy for meal preparation. We emphasize heirloom varieties where we try using varieties grown in Thomas Jefferson's Monticello gardens. Colonel Tipton knew and corresponded with Jefferson, so we infer that maybe they exchanged gardening information.



We have some perennial plants: strawberries and rhubarb, along with herbs: sage, oregano, lavender, and rosemary. Garlic is planted in the fall around the edges. In spring we plant broccoli and cabbage, onions, carrots, beets, lettuce, spinach, and chard. As it warms up, we add Heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and Scarlet runner beans. We also add some of the annual herbs.

The Slave Garden, as it is called, is located behind the restored slave cabin, home to George, the Haynes family's slave. It was usual for slaves to have a small garden to provide some of their own food.

Historical information is scarce so we choose to plant vegetables that originated in Africa, such as okra, field peas, peanuts, and watermelon, plus some New World plants that George might have adopted: potatoes and squash.

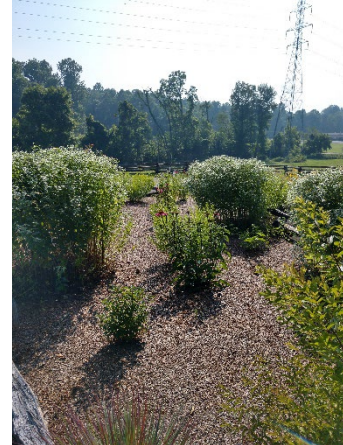


This garden is fenced in a wattle style, using branches and tree trimmings, such as George might have used to keep out the wildlife.

Our emphasis in the kitchen and slave gardens is to display for the education of visitors to the historical site; we don't try to maximize production. We do produce quite a bit of food, though, which we share with the staff, but mostly we just have a good time.

In 2021 we were presented with a new opportunity! A new parking lot and median meant a new place to plant! Tipton Haynes installed split rail fence around the median. We planted Winterberry Holly, Coralberry, Beauty Berry, Mountain Mint, Amsonia, and Goldenrod, as well as coneflower, creeping phlox, butterfly weed, passion flower, little bluestem grass, hyssop, blackberry lily, and husker's red penstemon. We added a large

native wildflower area meant to greet visits as they entered the site, and continue to plant perennials plants at the top of the area. The new area is growing and flourishing!



In 2023 we improved a shady area to make it more welcoming to visitors by improving the soil then planting coral bells, hostas, and Green and Gold ground cover.



We welcome any Master Gardeners who are looking for a place to share fun and earn volunteer hours, please contact us! We typically work on Thursday, but are flexible if you want to help on another day. Contact: Vern at [vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com](mailto:vjornmaddux@embarqmail.com) or Betts at [BettsL@aol.com](mailto:BettsL@aol.com).

## Coming Soon!

*Ask A Master Gardener* articles from Johnson City Press will be included in the Master Gardener Newsletter.

## 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!!**



**2024 OFFICERS**

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

**2024 CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

**Coming Soon**

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

**2024 COMMITTEES**

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423-467-2013  
[voigt7@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7@comcast.net)  
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[valzoo35@gmail.com](mailto:valzoo35@gmail.com)

**Feed the birds!**



## MARCH and APRIL 2024 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: [Learn — Knoxville Botanical Gardens \(knoxgarden.org\)](https://www.knoxgarden.org/learn)

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/>

**2024 Green and Growing Seminars**, 12:00-1:00pm, at the Kingsport Public Library Auditorium:

**March 7:** "Germination Techniques" with Joe Gorman of Pollinator Rare Plants

**March 14:** "Spring Planting and Succession" with Master Gardener Earl Hockin

**March 21:** "Earth-friendly Gardening" with Master Gardener Joy Moore

**March 28:** "Creating a Four-Season Cutting Garden" with Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farms

MAR 2 Cool Season Vegetables

10:30am. Join Sheila to learn the ins and outs of growing cool season veggies.

Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

MAR 2 Vegetable Gardening with Ben Hunter at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park  
9:00am-12:00pm in Community Room. Grow vegetables to maximize yield with the least amount of effort. There are things you can do to accomplish each of these desirable benefits. Pre-registration requested. To register or for information please call the park visitor center at 423-543-5808.

MAR 2 Cool Season Veggies and Succession Planting with Earl Hockin  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

MAR 2 Weed Wrangle at Tennessee State Parks  
9:00am – 12:00pm. David Crockett Birthplace State Park. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://tnstateparks.com)  
9:00am-12:00pm. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://tnstateparks.com)  
9:00am-12:00pm. Roan Mountain State Park. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://tnstateparks.com)  
2:00-5:00pm. Rocky Fork State Park. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://tnstateparks.com).  
1:00-4:00pm. Warrior's Path State Park. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://tnstateparks.com)

MAR 4 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm. Washington County Extension Office, 206 W. Main St., Jonesborough.

MAR 7 Herb Saplings Meeting.  
7 pm at Exchange Place in Kingsport. "Herbal Container Gardening" with Susan Scheer. For more info, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)

MAR 9 Spring Flowering Trees & Shrubs  
10:30am. Chris shares tips for successful spring trees and shrubbery plantings.  
Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

MAR 9 Early Spring Lawncare  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

MAR 14 Native Plant Propagation - Part 2 sponsored by Wild Ones Appalachian Chp.  
7 pm. Ben Casteel, Horti-culture Instructor and Program Coordinator at Virginia Highlands Community College will present part 2 of this program from the campus greenhouse in Abingdon. In this session Ben will cover propagation of Native Appalachian plants by grafting, cuttings, layering and other asexual methods. In person at VHCC Greenhouse, 100 VHCC Dr, Abingdon, VA, 24210 and via Zoom; Zoom link: <https://vccs.zoom.us/j/4710139607>.

MAR 16 Spring Lawn Care  
10:30am. Andrew gives tips for a lush, weed-free spring lawn. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

MAR 16 Vegetable Gardening w/Emphasis on Tomatoes with Ben Hunter  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

MAR 21 SAPS Program – Speaker: John Manion  
7:00pm. Presentation: "Best of the Unknown Native Perennials." BrightRidge Auditorium, Boones Creek. See details on page 4 in this newsletter.

MAR 23 Early Spring Annuals/Summer Flowering Bulbs  
10:30am. Shaun shares tips for planting spring annual flowers and summer bulbs. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

MAR 23 Early Spring Color (Perennials, Shrubs, & Trees)  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

MAR 30 Fruits & Berries  
10:30am. Chris gives tips for growing fruits and berries. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

MAR 30 All About Perennials  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

APR 1 NETMGA Program – Jess Zander via Zoom at Ron Ramsey Ag Center or Home  
6:30pm Presentation: "Spring Cleanup and Amending the Soil." See details on page 2 in this newsletter.

APR 4 Herb Saplings Meeting.  
6 pm. Herb of the Year: Yarrow, presented by Christy Shivell. Meeting at Shy Valley Farm, 315 Ridge Road, Fall Branch, TN. For more info, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)

APR 6 Herb Container Make & Take Workshop  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. There is a fee for this workshop. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

APR 13 Herbs  
10:30am. Sheila gives tips for growing herbs. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

APR 13 Weeds, Weeds, & Less Weeds  
11:00am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.

APR 12-14 45th Annual Spring Nature Festival at Warriors' Path State Park  
Friday Evening through Mid-Day Sunday. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://www.tnstateparks.com)

APR 18 SAPS Program – Speaker: Bryce Lane

7:00pm. Presentation: “The Joy of Gardening: The Power of Plants to Change Your Point of View.” at Kingsport Center for Higher Education. See details on page 5 in this newsletter.

APR 19-20 2024 Garden Faire – Washington County VA Master Gardens

Friday: 9:30am–6:00pm; Saturday: 9:30am-4:00pm. Southwest VA Higher Education Center, I-81 Exit 14, One Partnership Circle, Abingdon, VA. Admission: \$5 (Children under 12 Free). Information: <http://www.gardenfaire.net/>

APR 20 Spring Perennials

10:30am. Join us to learn which perennials provide spring blooms. We’ll also cover some springs tasks, such as dividing and pruning, for perennials. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

APR 27 All About Tomatoes

10:30am. Love tomatoes? Want to grow your own? Join Sheila to learn how to successfully grow tomatoes. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Call: 423-282-3431.

APR 27-28 38th Annual Spring Garden Fair at Exchange Place in Kingsport.

Saturday: 10:00am-5:00pm; Sunday: 12:00-5:00pm. Admission: \$5 for adults, free for children under 12. For more information, call 423-288-6071.

MAY 6 NETMGA Program – Doug Tallamy via Zoom at Ron Ramsey Ag Center or Home

6:30pm Presentation: “I know You're Very Busy but . . .I want to learn more about nature gardening.” See details on page 3 in this newsletter.

**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**

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