



# Master Gardener Thymes

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## Cool Down is in Sight!

We are fast approaching the end of summer veggie season. It's time for fall crops, such as kale, cabbage, broccoli, etc., and mums and pansies for the flower gardens! Before we know it, it'll be time to clean up and put our gardens to bed for the winter. I find this so hard to grasp. Every year growing season seems to go faster!

Keep working on 2024 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 in **September 9**, 6:30pm; Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville.

### NETMGA OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MTG & PROGRAM

**October 7**, 6:00pm at Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Details on page 2 of this newsletter.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NETMGA General Meeting & Program
- Mark Your Calendar!
- Ask A Master Gardener
- Featured Projects
- Article: "Creating a More Cat Safe House"
- September/October 2024 Calendar of Events

## **August NETMGA Membership Meeting Recap**

The membership meeting on August 5, was held at Tipton Haynes Historic Site. Over 50 Master Gardeners attended. Betts Leach presented an interesting program about the work the Master Gardeners are doing at this project site. The Master Gardeners had just cut to the ground a large area with Ostrich ferns, whose fronds were scorched from the heat and drought; but within two weeks the ferns had regrown to 12-18 inches. Many of the pollinators had been cut back by 12 -24 inches to encourage growth through the fall. There are additional beds with plants being transplanted from different areas to fill in the new beds. The Master Gardeners work on Thursday morning at Tipton Haynes with native and pollinator plants, plus the kitchen gardens. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Betts Leach or Vern Maddux.

For those of you who have not been to Tipton Haynes, it has been described as Tennessee's most historic location. Early Woodland Indians and later the Cherokees established hunting camps on what is now Tipton-Haynes Historic Site. It was the home to statesmen from the American Revolution through the Civil War. French botanist Andre Michaux documented native plants during several visits to the site.

In 2014 Tipton Haynes was designated as a Certified Monarch Waystation due to the emphasis on native plants and those that attract and/or serve as hosts for Monarchs and other caterpillars. The gardens have native pollinators in several different areas. And new gardens and work is being planned and implemented.

It was a great meeting with a picnic sandwiches and watermelon. The weather was perfect and the fellowship and program was a Master Gardener's dream.

## **October NETMGA Membership Meeting**

The next Membership meeting will be held at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, **October 7**, beginning at 6 pm. Please bring snacks, cookies, chips, etc. to share during social time.

Speaker Jeremy Stout, Nature Center Manager, Steele Creek Park, will begin at 6:30pm. The program is on Invasive Plants - what they are, how to recognize and rid our area of plants that will take over our native plants!!!

A signup genius will be sent out soon for you to register!

## Mark Your Calendar!

### September Herb Saplings Meeting

**September 5**, 7 pm at Exchange Place. "Herbal Tinctures." Sabra Fender of South in ya Mouth will explain the benefits of 3 of the tinctures she makes (red clover, basil, and mimosa) and show how to make them. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

### Emory & Henry Meadow Tour

Join Wild Ones Appalachian Chapter on **September 7**, at 6:30pm, at the Emory & Henry Cemetery in Emory, Virginia, as we walk the grounds of this historic cemetery and see the newly developed native plant meadow at the edge of the burial grounds. The E&H Cemetery Board and the University have partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Partners program to create a field of native plants and flowers that stretches more than 2 acres. We'll meet some of the volunteers and hear about the process.

The tour is free and open to the public.

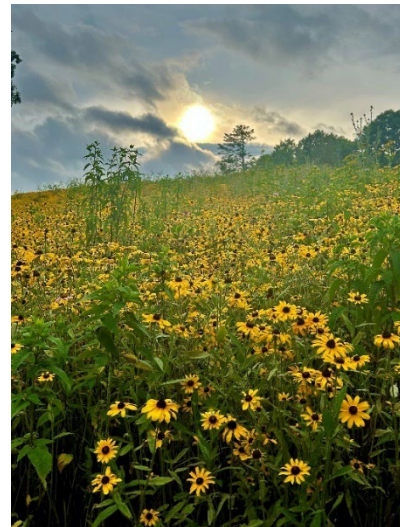
Directions from Exit 26 off I -81: College Dr north (toward E & H and joins Hillman Hwy) for .8 miles then left turn on Elm Street; then right on Cambridge Ave.

Emory and Henry Cemetery  
30419 County Rd 838, Meadowview, VA

Map can be found on E&H website (cemetery is to the north of campus)  
[Maps & Directions](#) • [About](#) • [Emory & Henry \(emoryhenry.edu\)](#)

For more information, website: <https://appalachianhighlands.wildones.org/emory-henry-meadow-tour-september-7-2024/>

Here is a link to an article published about the meadow.  
<https://cardinalnews.org/2023/08/23/historic-washington-county-cemetery-experiments-with-restoring-native-habitat/>



## September SAPS Program

**Horticulturist Adrienne Roethling will present "Fall' in Love with Your Garden in the South"** on Thursday, **September 19**, 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/>.

The fall season is a great time for planting and while the cool nights are quickly settling in, fill your garden with one more round of color, texture and form. Reinvigorate the garden with hardy mums and other fall blooming perennials, look for shrubs with fruit or fall color or simply add a flat of pansies and Johnny-jump ups. This talk will provide you with a list of plants to keep your garden looking fresh until winter sets in.



Adrienne Roethling began her horticulture career in high school while working in her aunt and uncle's garden center in Rochester, New York, and that is where her plant knowledge blossomed. After high school, she trained in the Longwood Gardens Professional Horticulture Program. Upon graduation in 2000, Adrienne moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to become the Garden Curator for Juniper Level Botanic Gardens at Plant Delights Nursery. Working eight years for horticulturist Tony Avent, Adrienne maintained the seven-acre garden with over 17,000 plant species, supervised volunteers, students and staff while serving the customer service department by answering many plant questions. Hired in 2008 as Garden Curator for Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden, a young, seven-acre public garden located in Historic Downtown Kenersville, NC, Adrienne focused on taking the master plan and turning it into a world class public garden. Her responsibilities included plant acquisition, nomenclature, maintaining the collection and labeling, and overseeing full-time horticulturists, students and volunteers. While there, she received a two-year scholarship from Chanticleer Gardens in Professional Development concentrating on public speaking, editorial and creative writing. In May of 2024, she left PJCBG to become the Head Gardener for a 3.5-acre Private Estate in Winston Salem, NC. She has written articles for Fine Gardening Magazine, the Greensboro News & Record, Yadkin Valley Magazine, Seasons at Ciener, and the Martha Stewart Living online Blog. She recently spoke at the Perennial Plant Association National Symposium.

Adrienne is an active volunteer, including serving as Vice Chair of the Kenersville Tree Commission, as Vice President and President for the Guilford Horticultural Society in Greensboro, NC as well as Co-Chair of the Annual Symposium. She is a graduate of Leadership Kenersville and served as Chair on the Downtown Committee. She currently

serves as Chair of the Small Garden's Community for the American Public Garden Association. She is married to horticulturist Jon Roethling, Director of Reynolda Gardens, and together they volunteer with Blue Ridge Boxer Rescue, and The Liberty Train and Rescue.

## Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival



Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 52nd annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, **September 28**, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, **September 29**, 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, blacksmithing 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/>. To volunteer to staff a shift at the SAPS / Master Gardener table, please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6572 or [jemmoor@gmail.com](mailto:jemmoor@gmail.com).

## Ask a Master Gardener

The Ask-A-Master Gardener Column writers have been busy these last two months writing many interesting articles. If you have a desire to research and write on a gardening topic we would welcome, you to the team. We have guidelines to follow as directed by Chris Ramsey, Sullivan County UT Extension Agent and NETMGA Advisor and Stephanie McClellan, Managing Editor Six Rivers Media. The basic guidelines are 1) Article Length - 600-800 words; 2) Sources of information are to be from an .edu, .gov, .org, .net site as long as nothing is being sold on the site. Please be sure the source is not a blog or opinion article. It must be research-based information.

A few of the recent articles by our Master Gardeners are listed below. You can download them from the NETMGA website.

*IPM – Mechanical-Physical Control* by Wes Walker, is located under Disease, Pest, & Weed Control: <https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/disease-pest-weed-control/>

*Vegetable Gardening for August* by Earl Hockin, is located under Vegetables:  
<https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/vegetables/>

*Native Plants* by Teresa Gaffner, is located under Native Plants:  
<https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/native-plants/>

*Let's Cover Some Ground* by Kate O'Lenic, is located under Gardening General Info:  
<https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/gardening-general-info/>

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



The Discovery Garden is located at the Gray Fossil Site and the Hands On! Discovery Center. NETMGA adopted this project in January 2021 before the garden area was open to the public. The Discovery 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 a 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 identical to or in the same family as ones that existed

at this site over 4 million years ago. 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, Wild Ones, and local garden clubs. We have participated in two STEM events hosted by the Hands On! Discovery Center so far this year by having a plant and insect “scavenger hunt” for the museum visitors.

We are now helping the Gray Fossil Site with maintenance of the water fountain near the museum entrance, landscaping around the main entrance sign, and the rock display also near the entrance to the museum. Many of the Discovery Garden Master Gardener volunteers performed the semi-annual cleaning of the fountain on August 13. We have also added water lilies and hyacinths to the fountain and plan to add some fish to complete the waterscape. Our volunteers typically meet Friday mornings and on other days for special projects and events.

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

All plants used in the Boundless Playground at Warriors’ Path State Park are not only native to this area but also native to the Park. Natives lend a carefree curb appeal to the landscape and it is exciting to see the selection of native plants that are now being offered at nurseries.

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



**American Beautyberry** has long, arching branches and yellow-green fall foliage, but its most striking feature is the clusters of glossy, iridescent-purple fruit which hug the branches, persisting after the leaves have fallen. The seeds and berries are important foods for many species of birds. It grows 3-5 ft. tall and usually just as wide. It can reach 9 ft. in height in favorable soil and moisture conditions.

The flowers of **Hearts-a-Bustin** are not showy. Its attraction comes in the fall when the bright red seed capsule bursts open into heart shaped segments, giving it its common name. It grows 4-6 feet tall



and 2-3 feet wide with an airy habit and grows best in sun dappled shade. It will form a colony from suckers but will not spread wildly, unlike its cousin Burning Bush.



Forgo the ubiquitous Mums and plant **Asters!** Some, like New England Aster, are shrub-like, growing 3-6 feet tall. Flowers will persist until a hard frost. They grow in a variety of conditions, thriving in full sun or light shade, are deer resistant and will increase in size each year but can easily be divided. Bees and butterflies are attracted to them, and they are a food source for Monarchs, who rely on the nectar of late-season blooms to fuel their fall migration.

Help is needed for our Fall Day of Caring that will be held Saturday, Nov. 9, starting at 8:30am. Planting, weeding, mulching and general fall cleanup will take place. Lunch will be provided. If you'd like to learn about native plants, Warriors' Path is a great place to learn. 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 ([geduncan@charter.net](mailto:geduncan@charter.net) or 423.239.0460).

## Creating a More "Cat Safe" House

Several weeks ago, I adopted a three-month-old Maine Coon Tabby kitten. To get ready, I attempted to "cat proof" the house. Similar to welcoming a toddler, I figured that if I removed anything that might be considered dangerous or attractive to a kitten, that would be sufficient. Since this was going to be a house cat, I wanted her to feel comfortable and safe.

It didn't occur to me that my bouquet on the kitchen table might possibly be more dangerous than any of the items I had removed. Outside, my cutting garden was in full bloom, and I had a bouquet on my kitchen table. I knew that flowers like Lily and Chrysanthemum could be toxic, but I had no idea about my flowers and greenery. I didn't know if I had toxic plants in my cutting garden either. That's when I decided to do a deep dive into learning more about toxic and safe flowers and plants for cats.

Adult cats rarely eat flowers or grass. Kittens are another story...they chew and play with everything. I needed to know how to keep my new kitten safe. Most flowers to avoid can cause gastrointestinal signs in cats if eaten, such as vomiting, loss of appetite and depression. However, ingestion of the lily flower can be fatal. All parts of the lily are toxic. They can even get this accidentally by brushing against the flower, getting pollen on their coat which they lick when grooming!

Some of the best information out there is available through the ASPCA websites and several veterinary websites. I first went to the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at [www.aspca.org](http://www.aspca.org). There you will find topics like Toxic and Non-Toxic Plant List – Cats. These are listed with the common name first, so it's easy to access. Unfortunately, this list is long at 86 pages.

VCA Animal Hospitals at <https://vcahospitals.com> also has easy to read lists with pictures. My goal is to eventually check on all my cutting garden plants to be sure they're safe to have in the house. The cutting garden will definitely look a little different next spring!

Here is a partial list of poisonous/toxic plants for cats from various sources across the web:

Amaryllis	Jade
Asparagus fern	Japanese Pieris
Autumn Crocus	Kalanchoe
Azaleas	Lily of the Valley
Begonia	Marijuana
Bird of Paradise	Milkweed
Calla Lily	Narcissus
Caster Bean	Oleander
Chrysanthemum	Pathos
Cyclamen	Peace Lily
Daffodils	Peony
Dieffenbachia	Philodendron
Dracaena	Poinsettia
English Ivy	Rhododendron
Foxglove	Sago Palm
Gladiola	Snake Plant
Hyacinth	Tulips
Hydrangea	Yew
Iris	

Have a great fall and be safe!

Sue Stanley, MG since 2006. Gardening in Knoxville TN

**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**

<https://uthort.tennessee.edu>

## 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)

**Old Deery Inn** Blountville  
Kate O'Lenic [ebkateo@gmail.com](mailto:ebkateo@gmail.com)

**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  
Sarah Cox 423-213-9024 [mrs.sarahecox@gmail.com](mailto:mrs.sarahecox@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**  
Paula Peralta 916-580-7256 [pjblessed1@gmail.com](mailto:pjblessed1@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!!**



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[donfdavis@aol.com](mailto:donfdavis@aol.com)

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)

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423-467-2013  
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**Feed the birds!**



## SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER 2024 Calendar of Events

**Covid-19 occasionally affects 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 or postponed.**

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

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: [ashevillebotanicalgarden.org](https://www.ashevillebotanicalgarden.org/)

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 7 Planting Fall and Winter Containers

10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. [Planting Fall and Winter Containers - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN \(evergreenofjc.com\)](https://www.evergreenofjohnsoncity.com/). Registration is highly recommended; call 423-282-3431

SEP 7 Fall Vegetable Gardening

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.

SEP 7 Emory and Henry Meadow Tour

6:30pm. See details on page 3 of this newsletter.

- SEP 9 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville.
- SEP 14 Fall Festival at Evergreen of Johnson City  
10:00am-3:00pm. [Fall Festival! - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN \(evergreenofjc.com\)](http://evergreenofjc.com).
- SEP 14 Fall Lawncare  
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.
- SEP 19 National Public Lands Day  
10:00am-4:00pm. Roan Mountain State Park: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)
- SEP 19 September SAPS Program  
7:00pm, at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. See details on page 4 of this newsletter.
- SEP 21 Trees for Fall Color  
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.
- SEP 28 National Public Lands Day  
1:00-3:00pm. Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park : [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)  
9:00am-12:00pm. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)  
10:00am-12:30pm. Rocky Fork state Park: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)  
2:00-5:00pm. Warriors' Path State Park: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](http://tnstateparks.com)
- SEP 28 Birding  
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.
- SEP 28-29 Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival  
See details on page 5 of this newsletter.
- OCT 5 Fall Festival at Evergreen of Colonial Heights  
12:00-2:00pm. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.
- OCT 7 NETMGA General Membership Meeting  
6:00pm at Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville.  
See details on page 2 of this newsletter.

OCT 12 All About Perennials

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.

OCT 19 Fall Bulbs for Spring Beauty

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.

OCT 25 Houseplant Social

6:00-8:00pm. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.

OCT 26 Composting

10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or call 423-245-4769.