



# Master Gardener Thymes

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## Warmer Weather is Here!

I think we are finally past cold weather but some nights are chilly. Be careful about planting summer veggies like tomatoes and peppers, and annual flowers, too soon; they typically prefer temps above 50 and warm soil. Until it is consistently warm enjoy the perennial flowers that are starting to bloom now. I've seen Mountain Bluet, Dianthus, Irises, Dwarf Crested Iris, and more! Plus blooming shrubs and trees.



Keep working on 2024 continuing education hours. Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for learning opportunities.

### NETMGA JUNE BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting will be in **June 4**, 6:30pm; location to be announced.

### NETMGA MAY (yes, May!) MEMBERSHIP MTG & PROGRAM

**May 6**, 5:45pm at Ron Ramsey Ag Center or via Zoom. Details on page 2 of this newsletter.

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- NETMGA Program-Doug Tallamy
- Ask A Master Gardener
- Mark Your Calendar!
- Featured Projects
- May/June 2024 Calendar of Events

## **NETMGA Program – May 2024**

A social event, with popcorn and other snacks, starting at 5:45pm, will be held for Master Gardeners prior to the May Zoom broadcast at the Ron Ramsey location. The Zoom broadcast, 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 meeting in-person/Zoom or by Zoom from your home.**

This Master Gardener Zoom event 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.

### **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>

## ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Master Gardeners who have been trained through the University of Tennessee's program answer the public's questions about gardening. We provide science-based, unbiased information to assist gardeners with best practices and research-based information to help improve their gardening experiences.

The Ask a Master Gardener team consists of seven Master Gardeners and two County Extension Agent advisors. We work together to identify subjects for timely articles to write for a local newspaper to provide education. We also respond to individual questions from the general public to help problem solve specific issues that arise in their gardens.

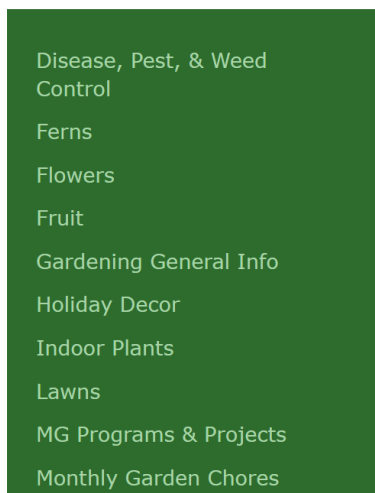
These articles are available to anyone who visits the NETMGA Website.

To access the articles visit the [NETMGA.net](https://www.netmga.net) site

Click on the tab - Ask A Master Gardener



Once on the Ask A Master Gardener page, previously published articles are accessible and are arranged by topic in the left hand green box. A few of the topics are listed below.



The articles have been written and published by local newspapers since 2022.

A shortcut to the topic of four recent articles are below:

Ferns - <https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/ferns/>

April Chores - <https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/monthly-garden-chores/>

Vines - <https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/flowers/>

Plant Propagation - <https://www.netmga.net/ask-a-master-gardener/gardening-general-info/>

### **Opportunity to be a writer for AAMG newspaper articles**

Hopefully you read the articles we write weekly for the Johnson City Press and Kingsport Times News. The articles are published in the Saturday/Sunday editions and are available in hardcopy and electronically. Maybe these articles have inspired you to try new things in your gardens. But have you thought you would like to write too? Well, we would love to have more writers join us. We are always looking for new ideas and having new people join the team always widens our perspective. We will provide information about how the process works and the guidelines for articles. If you have an interest, please contact Brenda McKinnis at [bjmckinnis4@gmail.com](mailto:bjmckinnis4@gmail.com) or Kate O'Lenic at [ebkateo@gmail.com](mailto:ebkateo@gmail.com). We'd love to add you to the team!

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **May Herb Saplings Meeting**

Herb Saplings Meeting will be **May 2**, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Topic: "Herbs in the Landscape" with Jane Hall of Wicked Plant Shop. Please bring an herbal snack to share if you have time.

### **Envisioning Residential Landscape Design for the 21st Century**

Julieta T. Sherk, Landscape Architect and Professor in the Horticultural Science Department at NC State University, will discuss "Envisioning Residential Landscape Design for the 21st Century" on Thursday, **May 16**, at 7 p.m. at BrightRidge Auditorium, 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), 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/>.



In this talk Professor Sherk will lead us on an exciting journey to unearth the hidden values within residential landscape design. We will explore the delicate balance between beauty,

comfort, and the preservation of natural and cultural systems. Sherk will highlight how to cultivate a design expression that not only is pleasing to the eye but also nurtures ecological harmony. Get ready to redefine your approach to residential garden design as we delve into the art of creating spaces that are both visually pleasing and environmentally conscious.

Julieta Sherk is a licensed professional landscape architect and educator at NC State University, where she specializes in teaching a variety of landscape topics. Drawing from her extensive experience in both academia and practice, she is dedicated to imparting knowledge and skills in landscape design to her students. Renowned for her versatility, Professor Sherk coordinates service-learning experiences, engaging students in pro-bono community work.

Professor Sherk's expertise extends to projects of various scales, from local to international, and encompasses urban, suburban, and rural environments. Her commitment to evidence-based approaches and community engagement underscores her value in the field of landscape architecture and teaching. Professor Sherk's research and outreach efforts focus on creating natural and engaging spaces that benefit communities and the environment. She advocates for incorporating artful forms and the use of plants as design elements, recognizing their pivotal role in promoting health and well-being and enriching the human-nature experience.

## **Saturday in the Gardens**

The Keep Kingsport Beautiful "Saturday in the Gardens" tour will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, **June 22**. Five private gardens will be featured on the tour, along with a school pollinator garden. Homeowners of the private gardens on the tour are:

- Chris and Danelle Glasscock, 2986 Reservoir Road
- Dennis and Rebecca Hall, 4517 Old Stage Road
- Miles and Denise Burdine, 1937 Birchwood Road
- Tammie Davis, 2021 Pendragon Road
- Darrell and Sharon Duncan, 125 W. Center Street, Suite 201

The Washington Elementary School pollinator garden will also be featured at 1100 Bellingham Drive.

Tickets for the tour are \$30 and can be purchased at the Kingsport Chamber, 400 Clinchfield Street, Suite 100. Folks will be able to visit the gardens at their own pace. All areas may not be level or handicapped accessible. Attendees are asked to wear comfortable shoes, and use caution while walking through the gardens. Tours will be held rain or shine. Tickets are non-refundable. Proceeds will benefit Keep Kingsport Beautiful. The event is sponsored by Eastman. For more information, contact Sharon Hayes at [shayes@Kingsportchamber.org](mailto:shayes@Kingsportchamber.org) or call 423-392- 8814.

## ***“Featured Project” - Church Hill Senior Center Garden***

The Church Hill Senior Center Garden is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> growing season. We continue to grow a wide variety of vegetables, herbs, and small fruits which are all donated back to the community. The lunch program at the Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, and the food pantry run by Of One Accord Ministry are all recipients of the garden’s produce.



Garden chores begin in February, planting begins in March and harvesting continues through October. We have been refurbishing the garden’s entire border, adding more garden “rooms” to keep out the marauding deer, and opening a few more beds to add to the production area. The Volunteer FFA students earned some TN Promise hours while helping us to spread our compost earlier in the season – all enjoying the interaction of the generations with an age span of 13 to 79. Since the garden is located on Main St, right next to the police station, we receive a wide variety of visitors who stop by to ask their gardening questions when they see us working.

The garden continues to be pesticide-free. A variety of native perennials and pollinator attracting annuals are spread throughout the grounds. We provide nesting boxes for bluebirds and tree swallows who help with bug control, and utilize row covers, companion planting, and good old-fashioned hand (and vacuum!) removal of plant pests. Our compost is “homegrown” with local horse and rabbit manure and garden trimmings.

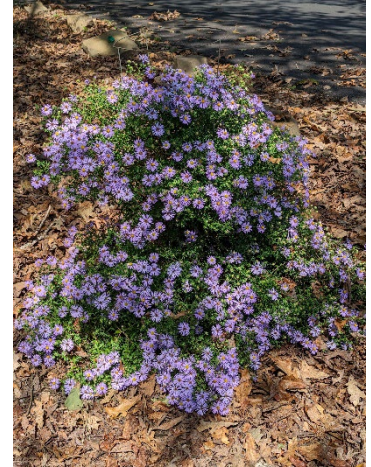


We always welcome new Master Gardener volunteers so that our community outreach may continue. If you are interested in becoming part of the tradition of service to the elderly and those in need in the community, please contact us at [chscgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:chscgarden@yahoo.com) or join us one Monday morning to help us grow and harvest.

## ***“Featured Project” – Native Plants Garden – Steele Creek Park Nature Center***

The Native Plants Garden at The Nature Center at Steele Creek Park, in Bristol Tennessee, was begun in 2019 to accompany a native plants exhibit contained within the Nature Center itself. While there are several garden projects around The Nature Center that require significant volunteer work, our primary efforts this year will be on enhancing and maintaining our educational Native Plants Garden and establishing a new Native Ferns Garden. These gardens are focused exclusively on the native plants of our region.

The roughly 6,500 square foot Native Plants Garden was established in an overgrown area next to The Nature Center. Beginning in 2019 we cleared as many of the undesirable plants as possible and documented over forty native plant species already existing in the garden area. Since then, we have added many new species, created paths through the garden area, and begun adding plant labels identifying representative specimens of most of the native species. We now have approximately 100 species in the garden. We work closely with the Nature Center naturalists to identify and prioritize other species to be added.



Representative plants are labelled with attractive signs containing their common and scientific names, and printed trifold guides for garden visitors are being developed. Our plan is to have brochures for all seasons of the year, as well as ones covering special topics such as traditional uses of native plants. This year we plan to add an educational kiosk outdoors next to The Nature Center.

This summer we will be establishing a Native Ferns Garden to complement the Native Plants Garden on the other side of the building. In addition to cleaning out the existing unwanted vegetation and preparing new beds for the plants, we'll be identifying species to be added, sourcing and planting the ferns, and developing educational materials for the garden.



This ongoing project provides volunteers the opportunity to help with further planning,

development, and maintenance of the garden in the coming years. Volunteers are needed to help acquire and plant new specimens, as well as to maintain control of the inevitable re-emergence of undesired plants. We also need help with maintaining the paths and performing other tasks. Other important roles for volunteers are to maintain our plant database, to compile educational information for all the species exhibited, and to assist in the development of the printed plant guides. Once installed, information in the educational kiosk will be maintained and updated by volunteers.

The Nature Center at Steele Creek Park has numerous, wonderful new exhibits, all focused on the flora and fauna of the region, as well as an extensive herbarium collection started several years ago by several Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center volunteers. The Explorers' Library contains one of the largest collections of regional natural history books and journals within a 100-mile radius. Steele Creek Park also hosts a certified Native Trees Arboretum, a Monarch Watch Waystation Garden, and an educational apiary.

The staff does extensive programming, both on-site as well as outreach, especially in the area schools. Jeremy Stout, the full-time Nature Center Naturalist (and City of Bristol Tennessee arborist) has done presentations on Native Plants in the Landscape for Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener classes.

For more information about The Nature Center and Steele Creek Park visit the Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and Park website: [www.friendsofstelecreek.org](http://www.friendsofstelecreek.org) or Facebook page: [@FriendsOfSteeleCreekPark](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSteeleCreekPark). If you think you'd like to become a gardens volunteer, contact Project Leader Robin Feierabend at [mail@friendsofstelecreek.org](mailto:mail@friendsofstelecreek.org) or (423) 764-3336.

## 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

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!!**



### 2024 OFFICERS

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[cwramsey@utk.edu](mailto:cwramsey@utk.edu)



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[cainm01@yahoo.com](mailto:cainm01@yahoo.com)

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423-854-0152  
[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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WEBSITE Carl Voigt  
423-467-2013  
[voigt7@comcast.net](mailto:voigt7@comcast.net)  
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## Feed the birds!



## MAY and JUN 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.**

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/>

MAY 2 Herb Saplings Meeting.

7 pm at Exchange Place in Kingsport. Topic: "Herbs in the Landscape" with Jane Hall of Wicked Plant Shop. Please bring an herbal snack to share if you have time. For more info, email [sapsnews@gmail.com](mailto:sapsnews@gmail.com)

MAY 4 Knoxville Botanical Garden & Arboretum Spring Plant Sale  
9:00am-3:00pm.

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 2 in this newsletter.

MAY 16 SAPS Program – Speaker: Julieta T. Sherk  
7:00pm. Presentation: "Envisioning Residential Landscape Design for the 21st Century" at BrightRidge Auditorium, Boones Creek. See details on page 4-5 in this newsletter.

MAY 18 Growing Flowers in Containers  
10:30am. Best practices for growing in containers. Evergreen of Johnson City.  
Registration is highly recommended. Register:  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/event/growing-flowers-in-containers-2/> or call: 423-282-3431.

MAY 25 Mushroom March: Mysteries of the Forest at Roan Mountain State Park  
3:00-4:30pm. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://www.tnstateparks.com)

JUN 1 Trails All Day at Warriors' Path State Park  
For information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks \(tnstateparks.com\)](https://www.tnstateparks.com)

JUN 1 All About Hydrangeas!  
10:30am. Best practices for growing in containers. Evergreen of Johnson City.  
Registration is highly recommended. Register:  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/event/growing-flowers-in-containers-2/> or call: 423-282-3431.

JUN 3 NETMGA Board Meeting  
6:30pm. Location to be announced.

JUN 8 Summer Lawn Care  
10:30am. Andrew gives advice on proper lawn care for summer. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register:  
<https://evergreenofjc.com/event/growing-flowers-in-containers-2/> or call: 423-282-3431.

JUN 8 Shady Oakes Garden Club Garden Tour and Plant Sale  
10 am – 3 pm. 7 enchanting urban gardens. Shop for unique plants grown by Shady Oakes members. Live music, refreshments, educational exhibits, art demos. \$10.  
<https://www.shadyoaksgardenclub.org/2017-garden-tour/>

JUN 15 Perennials for Pollinators  
10:30am. Want to attract pollinators to your garden using perennials? Join us for these tips and suggestions. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: <https://evergreenofjc.com/event/growing-flowers-in-containers-2/> or call: 423-282-3431.

JUN 22 Keep Kingsport Beautiful "Saturday in the Gardens" Tour  
9:00am-2:00pm. Tickets: \$30. See details on page 5 of this newsletter.

**Horticultural information and resources for Tennessee gardeners**  
<https://uthort.tennessee.edu>