



Official Publication

Master Gardener Thymes

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It's November!

I've been hearing several leaf blowers and rakes in my neighborhood! Some people have started to clean up and put gardens to bed for the winter. I'm feeling the pressure to start moving leaves to the garden beds. I might plant a few pansies in the flower gardens for winter color!

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



NETMGA NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting will be on **November 4**, 6:30pm; Carver Recreation Center, 322 W Watauga Ave, Johnson City.

NETMGA DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MTG & DINNER

December 2, Time TBD at Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Details on page 2 of this newsletter.

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December NETMGA Membership Meeting & Holiday Dinner

The December Meeting and Holiday Dinner will be held **December 2, 2024**, at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agricultural Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville.

Eugene Wolfe will be presenting the program for the evening — Words and Songs of Christmas.

Eugene Wolf brings his one-man look at Christmas to celebrate a ritual whose joy is in our bones. Through seasonal songs about trees, bells, and gardens - Mamaw stories, new stories, and surprising prose, he brings it together to open new things to celebrate in 2024.



Eugene is a performer. He acts, sings, tells stories, and plays music. Inspired by the Valleydale pigs, he started playing clarinet in Greeneville, Tennessee and became Drum Major. Off to the University of Tennessee to study music and theatre jumped in the way. He worked with the Road Company, a professional acting ensemble in Johnson City for 16 years. They traveled to Bashkiria, Russia in 1994 as the first American artists to visit that country. Since 1986, he's made duet music with Ed Snodderly as one of the Brother Boys. For 27 years he has been a member of the Acting Company of Barter Theatre, where he originated the role of A. P. Carter in *Keep on the Sunny Side*. In 2013 he traveled again to Russia to collaborate with Russian musicians on American spirituals and recorded a CD, "Where We'll Never Grow Old". He hosts a weekly public radio show of world music called "What In The World" for WEHC-FM at Emory and Henry University.

A steak dinner will be provided by the Cattleman's Association. There will be a charge of \$10/Master Gardener and \$24/Guest. A vegetarian entree will be provided. RSVP is necessary to be sure we provide food for all who have registered. A sign-up genius will be sent out to all Master Gardeners in the next few weeks with more information.



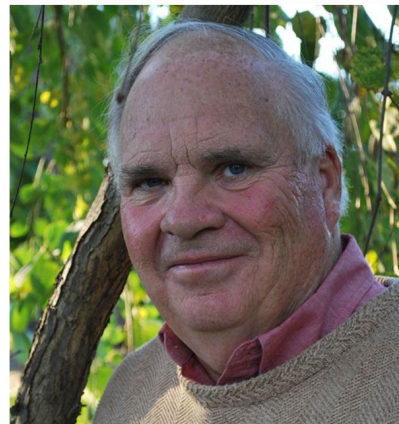
Mark Your Calendar!

November Herb Saplings Meeting

November 7, at 7 pm at Exchange Place. Topic is Christmas Crafts with Herbs led by Sue Cadwallader and Joy Moore. To help us plan supplies, please RSVP by emailing jemoor@gmail.com. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

November SAPS Program

Horticulturist and garden writer Hugh Conlon will discuss "Smarter Gardening Designed for Seniors" on Thursday, **November 14**, at 7 p.m. 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 phone 423-348-6572 or email sapsnews@gmail.com, <http://saps.us/>.



"Gardening is both a great hobby and an opportunity for great exercise." That sounded good when you were in your 50's and 60's. Today -- "Oh! my aching back, arms, legs and every bone in my body." Hugh will present ideas on how to design a senior garden that should spur you to step outside and enjoy a beautiful 4-seasons landscape. Learn how to garden wiser with fewer physical aches and pains, improve muscle dexterity, and sharpen cognitive skills. Learn about selecting top performing plants that also require a lot less maintenance along with tips to sharpen your purchasing skills at garden centers to avoid plants and tools that have gotten so darn expensive.

Hugh Conlon is an active garden writer and speaker since his retirement from the University of Tennessee in 2011. He has been a professional horticulturist for over 45 years and is the creator and content provider of the gardening website <https://whatgrowsthere.com/grow/>. He has spoken to many Master Gardener classes in Tennessee and presents garden club talks and nursery/landscape programs in Tennessee and other states. In addition, he contributes articles to *Tennessee Gardener* and other garden/trade magazines, organizes garden tours throughout Tennessee and nearby states, and consults with gardeners, commercial landscapers, and growers.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Hugh attended Cornell University (BS degree), University of Delaware (MS degree), and Michigan State University. Hugh has served on the SAPS Board since its inception including two terms as president. Other memberships include Perennial Plant Association, Garden Writers Association, American Conifer Society, and Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association. Hugh and wife Jane are the proud parents of four children and five grandchildren. His hobbies include gardening, photography, and writing.

Wreath Making Workshops at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreath Making Workshops on Tuesday, **December 3**, from 6 - 8 p.m. and on Wednesday, **December 4**, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Participants will learn basic wreath making techniques, the differences in the various boughs, how to embellish with natural accents, and will create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. Both beginners and experienced wreath makers are welcome.

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

The workshop fee is \$40 and includes all materials and light refreshments. Space is limited. To reserve your place, first please check availability and then mail check, payable to "Exchange Place," to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. To check availability or for more information, email Joy Moore at jemoor@gmail.com. Sorry no cancellations or refunds (though we will save your materials for you if you have to cancel.) Proceeds from the workshops go to Exchange Place's restoration efforts.

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, **December 7**, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fresh greenery, wreaths and roping, unique folk arts and handicrafts, and traditional holiday foods will be on sale. The celebration also features demonstrations of winter time activities on the 19th century farmstead and hands on experiences for all ages. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, 423-288-6071 or <https://exchangeplaceln.org/>. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail, Exchange Place's free gift to the community, begins at 4:15 p.m.

Ask a Master Gardener

The AAMG articles are continuing to be presented in regional weekend newspapers. The AAMG Committee meets once a month to discuss ideas for upcoming articles. A sample of the articles and links to the articles for this last month are below:

Landscapes from Deep Time Set the Ecological Stage for Southern Appalachian Biodiversity

https://www.netmga.net/app/download/7127593519/Landscapes+from+Deep+Time+Set+the+Ecological+Stage+for+Southern+Appalachian+Biodiversity+2024_10_26.pdf

Fall Gardening

<https://www.netmga.net/app/download/7127593535/Fall+Gardening+2024-10-05.pdf>

Ask a Master Gardener (continued)

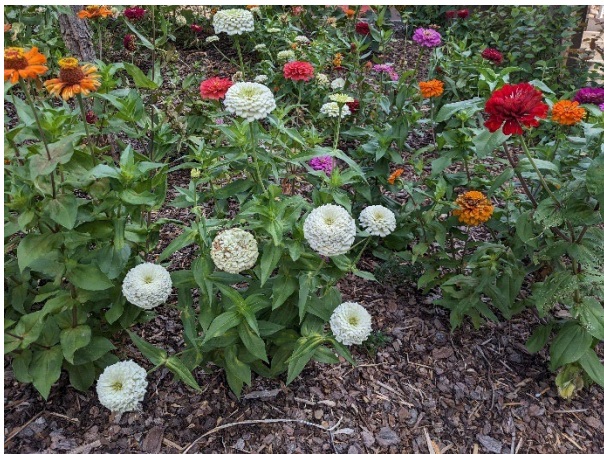
Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Non-Chemical Control
https://www.netmga.net/app/download/7127593526/IPM-Non-Chemical+Control+2024_10_19.pdf

November Vegetable Gardening
<https://www.netmga.net/app/download/7127593550/2024-11-02+November+Vegetable+Gardening.dox.pdf>

For more articles on gardening visit the NETMGA website, click on Ask A Master Gardener tab. A list of topics is located on the left side of the page to help you search for an article to answer your questions.

“Featured Project” – Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital and Ronald McDonald House

Master Gardeners continue to provide healing gardens for three local health facilities: the Johnson City Medical Center, Woodridge Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

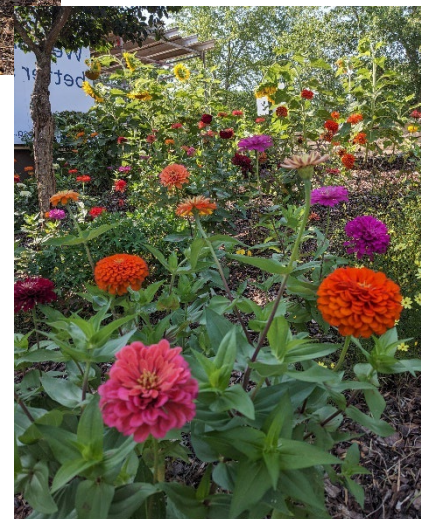


We have agreed to renovate the ICU rooftop garden at JCMC. The site is very hot with a

lot of reflected light. We are experimenting with various plants to see what thrives in those conditions.



It has been exciting to watch construction at the Children's Hospital. Unfortunately, several of our gardens are behind construction fences. We look forward to the time when the heavy equipment moves out and we can restore the gardens to their previous conditions.



We have an enthusiastic group of gardeners who enjoy sharing their skills in the creation and maintenance of healing gardens. We welcome more workers. If you would like to join the team, please contact Barbara Voigt. voigt7b@comcast.net 423 367 2013



“Featured Project” – Rocky Mount Historical Site

The past year has been great for the gardens at Rocky Mount Historical Site. We have added a couple of new gardens and enhanced the rest. The consensus is that this is the best Rocky Mount Landscaping has ever been. The front gate area that had been neglected, has been totally renewed with native plants. The plant bed was lined with a double layer of pavers. Along with all native plants, a very dedicated team has kept the front gate garden looking fabulous. It really is a top-notch native garden. Next is the pond area, that with our nature trails through the woods and prairie fields are once more presenting native plants that have been growing on our site for hundreds of years. Have you even seen an orchard or a tumbleweed in Tennessee? Come out to see for yourself. The areas coming into the site and the pond across the road are now being highlighted as Rocky Mount Native Plants. We have been collecting seeds and have just started selling a limited number of native plants in our gift shop.



Next garden to be seen is the Pollinator Garden, again enhanced and changing as we learn about our friends the pollinators. Across from the Pollinator Garden is our orchard, where the pear tree gave many visitors a treat to eat. Inside the historical area the first garden is the Kitchen or Herb Garden. Many visitors have been impressed by the knowledge of the Master Gardeners as they present this small garden's value to the early settlers. Coming to the front of the Cobb House is the Shade Garden. Leaving the Cobb House via the dog trot you see Mrs. Cobb's cutting garden. The garden that has one purpose, to make Mrs. Cobb happy. She can view it from the Great Room and point it out to her guests and decorate her home with the flowers.

Visitors, after leaving the kitchen, go through the Kitchen Garden and view the unique hotbox that is used for fresh greens in the winter and growing plants that will be transplanted after last frost. Next, you see Mr. Cobbs Vegetable Garden done in English design. Quite different in this time of history for the frontier. In front of the fence in the Vegetable Garden is the Dye Garden. An especially important garden that allows us to dye wool and linen many colors. We grow our own flax to process into linen and have twenty some sheep that provides us lots of wool.



Last, as you exit the historic area next to the slave cabin is the Enslaved Garden. Much research has been done to grow all our gardens be representative of Tennessee in 1790's. In the Enslaved Garden we continued to learn more about plants that were grown by the Enslaved.

Our last major garden is the Sonja Memorial Garden across from the historic site. This is near the site of the 1940's tobacco barn that has been restored. This garden was created by the Rocky Mount Master Gardeners in tribute to John McKamey's wife. It was John who donated the money to buy the 15.5 acres of the original Cobb farm and gives Rocky Mount the distinction of being one of the older continued farms in Tennessee. In three

years, this garden has gone from poison ivy, briars, and weeds to a wonderful area to relax in one of several seating areas or in the large gazabo. We are in the planning stages of building a trellis with a swing overlooking the fields down to Polly's Pond.



Earlier this year, a breakfast event for the Master Gardeners where they received specially designed aprons or ball caps. This fall there was a sit-down dinner with white table clothes for the Master Gardeners and their spouses in thanks to the over twenty Master Gardeners and their hundreds of hours dedicated to the values we hold as gardeners to have fun and educate. Our Master Gardeners provide gardening information to the public at Rocky Mount school programs and the various historical events. Our next Event is the first two weekends of December, where several of the Master Gardeners will use their skills in decorating the site for the Candle Lite Christmas Event using only native plants.

Another development that we are looking into is educating the public on Native Plants producing them for sale to visitors.

The bulk of the area in Rocky Mount fields and woodlands were already covered with native species, mostly grasses. The fall display of *ndropogon rnarius*, *Coleataenia anceps*, and *Eragrostis spectabilis* was very impressive. There were a few areas with *Sorghum halapense* but those were not extensive.

Advantages of Planting Natives

- Less weeding as native plants spread out to fill the space available to them thus eliminating spaces between plants.
- Less or no watering, since native plants evolved with the local weather conditions (the exception is that transplants need watering for the first two weeks or so, and during droughts).
- Support for native pollinators (bees, butterflies, flies, beetles, etc.) as host plants for eggs, larvae, and adults, feeding pollinators at multiple stages of development.

- No pesticides are needed since we WANT the pollinators to feed on the plants, knowing their native predators will keep predator populations in check.
- Our native plants are as beautiful as any in the world and provide a sense of place different from any other area of the world.

Plants sold in our gift shop. We hope to expand the plants we sell by building a greenhouse near the Tobacco Barn as another enhancement of Sonja's Garden. Besides growing more plants, it will be a place to educate children about gardening and native plants.

Winter Protection for Container Plants

If your containers aren't too heavy, moving them into an unheated garage or basement is ideal. If they are too large to easily and safely move, you can leave them where they are and wrap them up tight.

How to Wrap a Plant Container

It's easy to wrap up your containers and no special skills or tools are needed.

1) Leave the top open to the elements and use anything you have handy (old blankets, burlap, even bubble wrap will work) to wrap around the body of the pot. This helps to trap heat at the root zone which, as a plant in a pot, are more susceptible to cold and freeze damage since they are more exposed in a pot than they would be if planted in ground. (Of course, the colder your winters, the more you need to wrap!)

2) Secure the blankets tightly and you should be ready for the winter!

3) In a less-exposed area you can loosely wrap the container with chicken wire, up over the height of the plant, then fill in with leaves. Be sure the leaves are thick enough so there is a tight packing around the container and plant.

Once spring arrives, just unwrap or move your containers back out into the sun, water well and wait until they bloom!

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

Branch House Family Center Blountville
Pat Mazurkiewicz 423-323-1644
robmazur@chartertn.net

Carver Peace Gardens Johnson City
Nancy Shilling 423-833-1420 nancyshilling@gmail.com

Church Hill Senior Citizens Center Garden
Marcia Vandermause chscgarden@yahoo.com

Discovery Garden at Gray Fossil Museum
John Hitchcock 423-525-8587 jghitchcock25@gmail.com

Exchange Place Living History Farm Kingsport
Earl Hockin 423-817-5473 ehockin@yahoo.com

Harvest of Hope Community Garden Kingsport
Dave Rogers 423-502-2459 dave_carla@chartertn.net

Johnson City Hospitals Johnson City
Barbara Voigt 423-467-2013 voigt7b@comcast.net

Old Deery Inn Blountville
Kate O'Lenic ebkateo@gmail.com

Rocky Mount Living History Site Piney Flats
Don Davis home 423-854-0152, cell 423-943-2392
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Steele Creek Park Bristol, TN
Robin Feirabend 423-764-3336 Feierabe@ETSU.edu

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Site Elizabethton
Sarah Cox 423-213-9024 mrs.sarahecox@gmail.com

Tipton Haynes Historic Site Johnson City
Vern Maddux 423-440-9236
vjornmaddux@embargmail.com
Betts Leach 423-571-8662 BettsL@aol.com

Unicoi County Hospital Erwin
Gina Clark 423-956-2426 gclarkx4@gmail.com

NETMGA Yearly Projects List:

Johnson City Home Show and Women's Expo
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785 pennyrutledge2@aol.com

Farm Expo
Wes Walker 804-824-5308 wes.walker@me.com

Kingsport MeadowView Home Show
Paula Peralta 916-580-7256 pjblessed1@gmail.com

Bristol PepperFest
Wes Walker 804-824-5308 wes.walker@me.com

Kingsport Tomato Festival-TBD

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



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Feed the birds!



NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 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/>

Evergreen of Johnson City Seminars: [Events from March 12, 2016 – March 26, 2016 › Seminars › – Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#)

Evergreen of Colonial Heights Seminars: [Events from October 5 – June 6, 2022 – Evergreen of Colonial Heights](#)

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/>

NOV 4 NETMGA Board Meeting

6:30pm at Carver Recreation Center, 322 W Watauga Ave, Johnson City.

NOV 7 Herb Saplings Meeting

7 pm at Exchange Place in Kingsport. To help plan supplies, please RSVP by emailing jemoor@gmail.com

NOV 14 November SAPS Program

7:00pm, at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660. Speaker Hugh Conlon. See details on page 3 of this newsletter.

NOV 14 Herbal Gift Making. The Magnolia Room in Downtown Erwin, TN

6:30-8:30pm. With Lori Collins Jenkins of Sister of Mother Earth. Attendees will make and take several different plant-based gifts for giving this holiday season and receive DIY instructions for creating herbal gifts at home. \$45. Information:

<https://herbalachia.store/products/herbal-gift-making>

NOV 19 Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia with Adam Bigelow

7:30pm. Free webinar presented by Tennessee Native Plant Society.

<https://www.tnps.org/event/seminar-wildflowers-of-southern-appalachia-with-adam-bigelow/>

DEC 2 NETMGA Membership Meeting & Holiday Dinner

At Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. See details on page 2 of this newsletter.

DEC 3 Winter Tree Keys at Warriors Path State Park

3:30-5:30pm. \$5. Practice using botanical keys to learn the names of our native trees in winter by their bark, buds, fallen leaves and more. Cost: \$5. Information: 423-239-6786 or [https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-2024)

[2024](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-2024)

DEC 3-4 Wreath-Making Workshops at Exchange Place

See details on page 4 in this newsletter.

DEC 7 Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm

10:00am-4:00pm; 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. See details on page 4 in this newsletter. For more information:

423-288-6071 or <https://exchangeplacetn.org> .