



Official Publication

Master Gardener Thymes

Volume 22, Issue 2 Mar-Apr 2025

The Return of DST is Upon Us!

I frequently hear people say that Daylight Savings Time gives us an extra hour of daylight; however, we know that we really get the same number of daylight hours, the light hours just shift from am to pm. I, personally will miss the sunrise in the early morning (when I take my dog out) but I'll enjoy more time outside in the evening. How about you?

Have you started working on 2025 continuing education hours? Check out the calendar at the end of this newsletter for a lot of learning opportunities.



NETMGA MARCH BOARD MEETING

The next NETMGA Board meeting will be on **March 3**, 6:30pm; Rocky Mount State Historic Site, 200 Hyder Hill Rd, Piney Flats, TN

NETMGA APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

April 7, 6:30pm at Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. Details on page 6 of this newsletter.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Master Gardener Intern Class Update
- Mark Your Calendar!
- NETMGA Merchandise List
- Featured Projects
- March/April 2025 Calendar of Events

NETMGA Annual Awards Membership Meeting Recap

The Annual Awards Membership Meeting was held on February 3, 2025, at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agricultural Center.

Seth McLaughlin, Board Certification with AANP, presented a program on Herbs for Aging. Seth McLaughlin is a family nurse practitioner who works with people to maintain good health or transform poor health into vibrant wellness with therapeutic lifestyle change, nutritional supplementation, medical & herbal therapies, and more. Several areas of aging were addressed. Seth discussed using herbs to reduce inflammation, decrease oxidative damage, balance hormones, support collagen and improve blood flow. If you did not receive the PowerPoint presentation and would like a copy, email Brenda McKinnis at jbmckinnis4@gmail.com for a copy.



This is always a busy meeting, but the business portion of the program was quickly accomplished.

The members present voted for the following board members and the vote was unanimous: Karen Rowell, Board President, Susie Morrison, Vice President, Janet Smith, Secretary and Michelle Hejny was elected as Treasurer. The Master Gardeners who have completed 1, 3, 5 and 10 years of service, as well as those with over 100 hours of volunteer service, were recognized.

Joy Moore was recognized as having completed over 30 years of service as a Master Gardener.

NETMGA Master Gardener Intern Classes of 2025

- - from Susie Morrison

The classes for the new interns began on January 28, 2025, meeting every Tuesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. We meet in the morning for UT zoom classes headed by Natalie Bumgardner but taught by many of the horticultural experts at the university and in the state.

Below is a list of the remaining classes and all TEMGA members are welcome to attend for CEUs and further learning.

After the morning sessions we have a light lunch, followed by afternoon sessions of varying activities including introductions to our projects, field trips, and special speakers

taking our lesson to the hands-on level. Many current master gardeners are assisting with the classes including set-up, food prep, and always clean-up. Others are assisting with curriculum in organization, communication, and preparing handouts. We are so grateful for all the leadership and assistance. Our interns seem to be very enthusiastic about the TEMGA group and their learning experience. As leaders we are hoping to retain their interest in joining our organization and participating in our many projects. All members can aid in this goal by coming to classes, meeting our interns, visiting with them and encouraging them to get involved. No need to sign up for specific dates to attend classes. If you would like to assist in the month of April please text Susie M. at 832-279-8521.

3/4 *Landscape design*

4/1 *Plant pathology*

3/11 *Woody ornamentals*

4/8 *Vegetables*

3/18 *Turfgrass and weeds*

4/15 *Fruits*

3/25 *Entomology and IPM*

4/22 *Pollinators*

Mark Your Calendar!

March Herb Saplings Meeting

March 6, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Topic: Welcoming Pollinators to Your Herb Garden with Joy Moore and Liz Blakely. Learn how to make your herb garden inviting to pollinators, including how to make a bug snug. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

Green Growing Gardening Seminars

The 2025 Green and Growing Gardening Seminars will be held on **Thursdays in March** at noon in the board room of the Kingsport Chamber, 400 Clinchfield Street. Sponsored by Keep Kingsport Beautiful and the Kingsport Public Library, these seminars are free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

The topics for the seminars are:

March 6 – “Herbs to Elevate the Landscape and Menu.” Presented by Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farm.

March 13 – “Growing Vegetables Wherever You Can Put a Container.” Presented by Earl Hockin, Master Gardener.

March 20 – “Plant This, Not That: How to Make Smarter Plant Choices.” Presented by Joy Moore, Master Gardener.

March 27 – “Beneficial Insects.” Presented by local organic farmer John Woodworth, owner of Ziegenwald Dairy.

For more information, contact Sharon Hayes at shayes@KingsportChamber.org or call 423- 392-8814.

SAPS March Program: “Pollination: The Hidden Language of Flowers and the Importance of Pollinators”

Gerardo Arceo-Gomez, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, ETSU, will provide a fascinating deep dive into “Pollination: The Hidden Language of Flowers and the Importance of Pollinators” on Thursday, **March 20**, 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 or see <http://saps.us/>.



Pollinators have played a key role in the diversification and organization of the plant life that exists today. Pollination also provides a key ecosystem service that is responsible for approximately one third of all food production needed for human consumption. However, the full diversity and underlying complexity of plant-pollinator interactions remains unappreciated. In this presentation Dr. Arceo-Gomez will talk about the intricate complexity of the interactions between plants and pollinators - how diverse they are, how plants and insects communicate, and how these interactions have evolved and specialized. He will also emphasize the importance of these interactions for our own well-being, all while discussing fun natural history facts about pollination in natural and crop systems.

Gerardo Arceo-Gomez received his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and he is now an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at East Tennessee State University. He has authored over 60 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has obtained competitive grants to fund his work, including from NSF. Gerardo’s work is focused in understanding the ecological and the evolutionary consequences of plant-pollinator interactions. Current research in his lab focuses on 1) evaluating causes and consequences of plant-pollinator interactions and 2) evaluating the effects of human disturbances on plant-pollinator interactions. His research covers broad topics in plant ecology, plant-animal interactions, conservation biology, community ecology, and pollination biology.

April Herb Saplings Meeting

April 3, 7 pm at Exchange Place. Topic: *Camomile matricaria*, International Herb Association's 2025 Herb of the Year, with Reeda Tate and Sue Cadwallader.

Coming up at the April NETMGA Membership Meeting!

Propagation is Fun!! You ask for it and we will be delivering. The programs committee is working now to have everything ready for a hands-on event you requested. For the **April 7, 2025** NETMGA Membership Meeting: Wendy Sibley and Jess Strong will be joining us at the Ron Ramsey Regional Agricultural Center to provide a program on propagation as well as guide hands-on activities to allow you to go home with perennials. Bring a plastic bag or supplies you may need, your perennial to divide if you have one, and your garden tools for a fun filled learning evening.

Wendy Sibley is the co-owner and daily operations manager of Sibley Farms LLC in Blountville TN. Wendy has over 25 years of retail experience and a lifetime of gardening knowledge. She enjoys helping gardeners achieve success with their plant selections from garden vegetables to trees and shrubs.

Jess Strong is responsible for the seeding program for vegetables and herbs and the succulent selections. She has over 15 years of retail experience in a garden center. Jess enjoys plants that serve a purpose and is full of knowledge about edible and medicinal qualities of plants.

A link to signup will be emailed to you soon. This will allow us to be prepared for the number of Master Gardeners who will be attending.

SAPS April Program: “Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods.”

Larry Weaner, nationally known landscape designer and founder of New Directions in the American Landscape, will present “Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods” on Thursday, **April 24**, 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 or see <http://saps.us/>.



Using native plants requires more than simply expanding conventional design practices. Based on observation of how native plants develop in nature, we can create new design, implementation and management techniques, many of which are diametrically opposed to traditional practice. This presentation examines how alternative approaches on everything from selecting, arranging, and spacing plants to the simple act of weeding can yield a more easily maintained landscape that still expresses the beauty and richness of our native flora.

Larry Weaner is a leading figure in North American landscape design and founder of the educational program series New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL). NDAL has been a pioneering influence in this field since 1990, and continues to educate landscape architects, landscape designers, horticulturists, and the gardening public. His firm, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, is known for combining restoration with the traditions of fine garden design. The firm provides landscape design and installation, creating ecologically sound landscapes that speak to their surroundings and enrich natural connections. He has received the top three design awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers. An active guest lecturer for horticultural and environmental organizations throughout the U.S, he is author of the book Garden Revolution – How our landscapes can be a source of environmental change.

Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair

The 39th Annual Spring Garden Fair is Saturday, **April 26**, from 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday, **April 27**, 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-nineteenth century farmstead, as volunteers shear the sheep, spin and weave the wool, cook on the hearth, 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.

Master Gardeners Wanted

Master Gardeners have long been an important part of the Spring Garden Fair. 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 during the Fair weekend to help with staffing the Information/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.

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. Contact EPfestivals.GF@gmail.com or call 423-288-6071.

Coming in June!

The June Master Gardener Membership program is being planned based on the survey results submitted at our meeting last year.

A Field Trip to Midfield Lavender Farm will occur on **June 10, 2025 (NOTE NOT THE FIRST MONDAY)**. The farm is located at 1871 Goodman Loop, Bulls Gap, TN 37711. Entrance fee is \$10 per person with a 20% discount on group rates, making the price \$8 per person.

We are going to arrive at 5 p.m. for a two-hour event. More information regarding carpooling to come soon.

Jeannie, our hostess at Midfield Farm will give a presentation, answer all your lavender questions, and then we can use the porch for our meeting and socializing. You can cut bundles while at Midfield for \$5 per bundle. Lavender plants will also be for sale. (Hard to find varieties!)

Lavender lemonade will be available for our meeting. Midfield Lavender Farm products will be available for purchase.

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Merchandise Sales Prices

Note: We hope to be re-stocked for our next membership meeting. We have had a lot of interest in the women's v-neck shirts but on our last order, the green wasn't available in a v-neck. Also, we are trying to hold the prices stable, but they may rise a small amount with our re-order. We haven't had an increase in the t-shirts, polos and sweatshirts in many years.

If anyone has questions, they may email Karen Todd at ktodd820@gmail.com.

Men's T-Shirts:

Small-XL	\$15
XXL	\$17

Women's T-Shirts: (V-neck & round neck styles available)

Small – XL	\$15
XXL	\$17

Polos: \$20

Sweatshirts:

Small – XL	\$20
XXL	\$23

Khaki Aprons \$20

Black Aprons \$10

Ball Cap \$10

Bucket Hat \$40

2022 Conference T-shirt-XL only 1 left \$5

2022 Conference Tote-only 1 left \$5

“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 ground 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.

One program which the Carver Peace Gardeners are very proud of and part of the mission of NETMGA is providing education to elementary and middle school children (Jr. Gees). The main goals of the education classes are to teach basic gardening skills and promote a better understanding of where food comes from. Under the mentorship of Master Gardeners, the students learn how to plant, maintain, and harvest raised bed vegetable gardens in the cold frame that was built last year and seven 4x4 beds that are devoted to their program. Weekly lessons include soil management, composting, food preparation, recycling, container gardening, growing flowers, the importance of pollinators, and environmental stewardship. 150 children attended the 2024 after school and summer camp programs at Carver Peace Garden. Through these programs, Master Gardeners are also hopefully instilling a joy for gardening and creating great memories for the children they mentor.

Carver Peace Garden Master Gardeners accomplished several gardening tasks in 2024:

- In collaboration with Shady Oaks, we participated in the Shady Oaks Johnson City Garden Club tours. Many visitors toured our garden. Master Gardeners were available for questions and information about the garden, vegetables, and flowers. Potted vegetables and flowers were available.
- There is a large pollinator garden on the playground side of the garden. This garden is a very beautiful pollinator garden that was designed by a NETMGA gardener. It was planted and maintained by the Jr. Gees, the after school children’s gardening program. The Jr. Gees continue to maintain the garden.
- Shady Oaks gardeners were busy helping at Carver in 2024. A shade garden on the playground side of the garden was designed, planted, and maintained by the Shady Oaks gardeners. It has beautiful shade perennials.
- On the creek side of the garden, a sun perennial bed was designed, built, and flourished throughout the summer.
- We continue to experiment with an irrigation system for a few beds, more work to come in 2025.
- The Master Gardeners maintain four perennial flower beds on the parking lot side of the garden and one flower garden on the track side of the garden.
- Fruit trees are located on the track side of the garden. This area is maintained by the Master Gardeners.

- Individual gardeners have access to consult with Master Gardeners or other Carver Peace Gardeners. The Master Gardeners provided online gardening information to all Carver Peace gardeners.
- Build It Up East Tennessee provides garden plants, seeds, and fertilizer to Carver Peace Gardeners. The gardeners then report their produce yield annually. Produce yield between March and November totaled 218 pecks or 1,864 pounds.

It was a busy year between gardening projects, breakfast and luncheons were held to plan and implement ongoing activities and the Jr. Gees program. Some Master Gardeners participate 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 (423-833-1420), Brenda McKinnis (423-946-2769), or Penny Rutledge (423-612-4785).



Carver Peace Garden Master Gardeners



MGs organizing seeds for planting projects



Junior Gees afterschool program, children planting, maintaining and harvesting vegetables and flowers.

“Featured Project” Kingsport Harvest of Hope Community Garden

The Kingsport Harvest of Hope Community Garden was founded in 2011 as the first initiative developed by United Way's Safety and Stability Vision Council and the Food Security Initiative. Its initial purpose was to feed and support the homeless in our community and was supported by AARP.

While we still encourage our gardeners to donate surplus produce they grow to local food kitchens like the Kitchen of Hope and the Salvation Army, we have opened up opportunities to any and all gardeners on a first come, first served basis.

When the initial raised beds were built in 2011, there were only a total of 25 beds, and they were quite shallow, perhaps 4-6 inches deep based on photos I have seen. We now have 92 beds, many as deep as 16 inches, and we are currently about 75% occupancy level. Many of our gardeners live nearby in apartment buildings where they have little, or no, opportunity to raise food where they live. But some come from as far away as Jonesborough.



In addition to the raised beds available at no cost to gardeners, we also provide water (paid for by donations), compost (when available), and vegetable plants and seeds (when available). In the past we have offered classes in spring, summer, and fall to help gardeners learn best practices from research-based publications offered by Extension Service scientists. Dave Rogers has been the primary presenter, but the gardeners might like to have a fresh perspective from a new presenter.

Northeast Tennessee Master Gardeners have been involved with this project from its very inception. We can always use additional help with mowing and weeding, particularly outside the usual vegetable gardening period when our gardeners do not typically maintain the area in and around their beds, as well as hauling and unloading the horse manure. Please contact Dave Rogers if you are interested in earning some hours at HOH (dave_carla@chartertn.net).

“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.

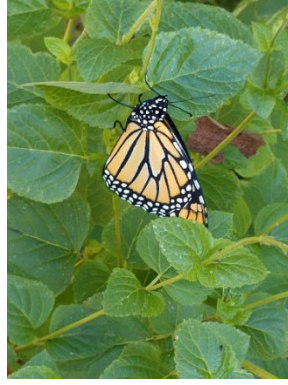
The Nature/Pollinator gardens contain many plant varieties, including anise hyssop, aromatic aster, native columbine, purple coneflower, orange coneflower, common milkweed, butterfly weed, huskers red penstemon, anise sage, passion flower, black-eyed susan, pipe vine, and prairie coreopsis (to name a 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.



Another pollinator area has allegheny spurge, mountain mint, spiderwort, joe pye weed, coneflowers, cardinal flower, 2 varieties of swamp milkweed, butterfly weed, common milkweed, aster, downy skullcap, great blue lobelia, Virginia Bluebell, goldenrod, and more.

We began documenting the types and number of caterpillars in 2015. In the last few summers we hosted Monarch caterpillars, plus Black Swallowtail caterpillars, Gulf Fritillary caterpillars, and numerous Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars.



In late 2024 the State of Tennessee began making improvements to the Tipton-Haynes site that have impacted our Nature/Pollinator Garden. The work has removed much of what we had achieved in our plantings so we will have to start over when the work is complete. We are starting to make plans to rebuild and replant. Luckily, we have many photos of what was there to work with. The photos below show what we will begin to rebuild.

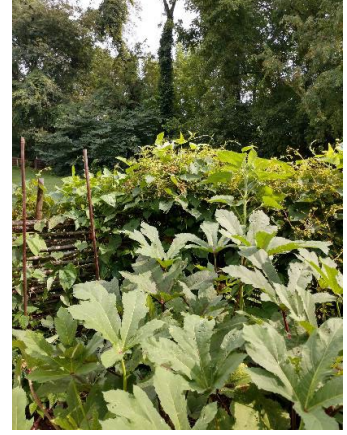


The vegetable gardens at Tipton/Haynes consist of two small plots in the historical area. The Kitchen Garden is representative of a small garden near the house that would have grown those vegetables that need a little extra care and be handy for meal preparation. We emphasize heirloom varieties where 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.

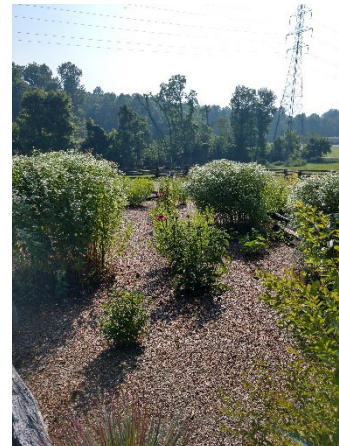


This garden, formerly fenced in a wattle style using branches and tree trimmings, such as George might have used to keep out the wildlife, will be rebuilt in 2025. Vern has already removed the old fence and it is ready for the rebuild.



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.



In 2024 we added Allegheny Spurge, St John's Wort, and Wild Ginger to the shade area.

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 or Betts at BettsL@aol.com.

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
Penny Rutledge 423-612-4785
pennyrutledge2@gmail.com
Brenda McKinnis 423-946-2769 jbmckinnis4@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
donfdavis@aol.com

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@embarqmail.com
Betts Leach 423-571-8662 BettsL@aol.com

Unicoi County Hospital Erwin-Paused due to Flood
Gina Clark 423-956-2426 gclarkx4@gmail.com

NETMGA Yearly Projects List:

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!



MARCH and APRIL 2025 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/>

MARCH 2025 Green and Growing Gardening Seminars will be held on Thursdays in March at 12pm. See details on page 3 of this newsletter.

MAR 3 NETMGA Board Meeting
6:30pm at Rocky Mount State Historic Site

MAR 6 Herb Saplings Meeting
7 pm at Exchange Place in Kingsport. Topic: Welcoming Pollinators to Your Herb Garden with Joy Moore and Liz Blakely. Please bring an herbal snack to share if you have time. For more info, email sapsnews@gmail.com

MAR 8 Spring Flowering Trees & Shrubs and Winter Pruning
10:30am. Spring blooming shrubs and trees, as well as the pruning for them. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Spring Flowering Trees, Shrubs, & Winter Pruning - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.

- MAR 8 Early Spring Lawncare
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- MAR 9 Invasive Species Removal Day at Rocky Fork State Park
2:00-4:00pm. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks](#)
- MAR 15 Cool Season Veggies
10:30am. Spring Vegetables: including but not limited to Lettuce, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Onions and more. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Cool Season Veggies - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.
- MAR 15 Cool Season Vegetable Gardening & Succession Planting
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- MAR 20 March SAPS Meeting
7:00pm. "Pollination: The Hidden Language of Flowers and the Importance of Pollinators" with Gerardo Arceo-Gomez, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, *ETSU*. At BrightRidge Auditorium, 2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354) in Johnson City. See details on page 4 of this newsletter.
- MAR 22 Spring Lawn Care
10:30am. Get the lowdown on what products to apply, what seed to use, and the basics of sod. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Spring Lawn Care - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.
- MAR 22 Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- MAR 29 Forsythia Festival at Evergreen of Johnson City
- MAR 29 Vegetable Gardening & Tomatoes
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- APR 3 Herb Saplings Meeting
7 pm at Exchange Place in Kingsport. Topic: Camomile matricaria, International Herb Association's 2025 Herb of the Year, with Reeda Tate and Sue Cadwallader. For more info, email sapsnews@gmail.com
- APR 5 Spring / Summer Flowering Bulbs
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Spring Annual/Summer Flowering Bulbs - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.

- APR 5 Water Gardening
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- APR 7 NETMGA Membership Meeting
Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center, 140 Spurgeon Ln, Blountville. See details on page 6 of this newsletter.
- APR 11-13 46th Annual Spring Nature Festival at Warriors' Path State Park
Friday Evening through Mid-Day Sunday. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks](#)
- APR 11-12 Mid Atlantic Garden Faire.
9:30am-6:00pm-Friday; 9:30am-4:00pm-Saturday. Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA. \$6. Under 12 Free. <http://www.gardenfaire.net/>
- APR 12 Fruits & Berries
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Fruits & Berries - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.
- APR 12 Weeds, Weeds, and Less Weeds
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- APR 14 Spring Wildflower Walk at Warriors' Path State Park
2:30-4:30pm. Information: [Event Details — Tennessee State Parks](#)
- APR 19 Herbs (could change to Spring Perennials)
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Herbs - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.
- APR 19 Summer Containers
10:30am. Evergreen of Colonial Heights. Registration is highly recommended. Register here: <https://egardenplace.com/events/> or Call: 423-245-4769.
- APR 26 Spring Perennials (could change to Herbs)
10:30am. Evergreen of Johnson City. Registration is highly recommended. Register: [Spring Perennials - Evergreen of Johnson City, TN](#) or call: 423-282-3431.
- APR 24 April SAPS Meeting
7:00pm. "Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods" with Larry Weaner, nationally known landscape designer and founder of New Directions in the American Landscape. At Kingsport Center for Higher Education, 300 W. Market Street, Kingsport. See details on page 6 of this newsletter.
- APR 26-27 39th Annual Spring Garden Fair at Exchange Place in Kingsport.
10:00am-5:00pm-Saturday; 12:00-5:00pm-Sunday. See details on page 7 of this newsletter.