

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

APRIL 2022



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



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On the cover: A Monarch searches for pollen in Echinacea. Photo credit: Tammie Browning

letter from the president

Our community knows spring is in the air when the Master Gardener Flower & Plant Sale comes along each April! To say the last two years with this event was a challenge would be a HUGE understatement. But, by golly, we pulled it off and even made it a success. 2022, we are back in person and excited to see how it all goes after all we have learned.

This event will be our only fundraiser (as of now) for 2022. Everyone is needed to make this event happen and it starts now with planting, water, and transplanting in our greenhouse. Demo Garden will be kicking off soon to get it looking great for the sale garden tours. Then we fall in to event set up, working the day of the event in different areas, and clean up. Right now, you can be helping find vendors to fill the hall. Soon flyers will be ready to start handing out. There is no one who can't do something to help with this greatly anticipated yearly event. Where can you help?

I have a feeling this year will be busier than ever since we have missed an in-person event the last to years. Reach out to Andy Bush (Plant Sale), Dixie Seaton

(Greenhouse), & Diane McCullen (Demo Garden) to see how you can help!

Tammie Browning

SCAMGA President
865.604.4829 | shallywag@yahoo.com
Facebook: [Tammie Gibson Browning](#)

side note:

Audrey recently sent me a message that she is continuing to have health issues. So, first and foremost, keep her in your prayers! Second, she is not going to be able to chair the Ask-a-Master Gardener program this year as she had hoped. This means we need someone to please step up and take this great volunteer opportunity on. If you are interested or have any questions please let us know. This program is the key component of our group being out in the community sharing garden resources and knowledge, but also manning the phones at the office during the growing season.

Also, Audrey was down to water in the greenhouse on Monday mornings. We are in need of someone to fill her spot.

If you can help with either of these, please email so we can get you started! Thanks for your consideration.

opportunities



2022 interns in the greenhouse



educational

New SCAMG Training Wednesdays, March 23 - April 27, 9am - 3pm.

Intern Friday Field Days (for certified MGs also!) April 1: Veggies and plant diseases, at 10:00 (EST) Concord Garden in Knoxville. May 6: Flowers in West Tennessee.

Melody's Monday Musings (Greene County), check out the 2021 schedule. [More info HERE.](#)

New Directions in the American Landscape, Feb-Mar Virtual Education Series. [More info HERE.](#)

save the date

TEMG State Conference in Blountville, TN, Jun 9-11.

SEVIER COUNTY
UT EXTENSION
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meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 18, 6:30 pm. In-person, with Zoom option. Info on page 7.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 19, 6:30 pm. In-person, with Zoom option. Info on page 7.

UT Gardens Knoxville Spring Plant Sale, Sat. April 9, 9am-2pm.

UT Gardens Crossville Spring Plant Sale, Sat. May 7, 9am-3pm (CST).

UT Gardens Jackson Spring Plant Sale, Fri. May 6, 9am-2pm & Sat, May 7, 7am - 11am (CST).

volunteer

4-H Farm Days, May 10-11, 8:30-1pm, help with tours of the demo garden! Contact Tammie Browning if interested

JMG Camp, June 3 & 4, More info on page 6.

Jr. Lunch & Learn Series, Wednesdays in July, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, More info on page 6.

2022 dues | \$25 per MG

Second person from the same household is \$15

Deadline April 30

Please send by check to:
Attn: Debbie Hurst
UT Extension Sevier County
752 Old Knoxville Highway,
Sevierville, TN 37862

If you prefer, you may drop off your payment at the office, but call first to make sure they know you're coming. Class of 2022 does not owe dues this year.



hot news from the greenhouse

All seeds in the greenhouse are planted. But, there will be MUCH work to do soon. Things are growing very well. So much so, our JMG kids transplanted some on March 31st. This is from the first batch of things planted this year. There are LOTS of seeds in the soil. We are going to need y'all to step up and come in to help transplant when those are large enough in a couple of weeks. Sarah and Tammie will be out of town for 10 days (April 6 - 16). This is nice easy work

that anyone can do. We have 2 stools so this can be done mostly seated. Please contact us if you will be willing to transplant when they are ready. We will train you on what to do. You are also welcome to come any time we're there to get hands on training how to do this. We will keep everyone updated on the needs as they arise.

Tammie Browning

demo garden news

Gardening is just more fun with our MG friends! We had two GREAT workdays last month. On our first workday, we cleaned out the storage unit – now you can see what is in there! On our second workday, we spread THREE scoops of mulch! The gardens are starting to look amazing. I want to sincerely thank everyone who came out to help. We won't have another scheduled workday until I can get more mulch. I'll send out an email when I have a date and time.

Diane McCullen

sevier county fair info

I have had a few wonderful MGs donate ceiling fan blades and other blades to create our backdrop for the fair. I could use at least one more set of fan blades. If anyone comes across some please let me know. I am also needing a few 5 gallon (black, plastic) plant pots. If any of you buy a large

plant and don't need the pot it came in please bring it to the office. I'll pick it up there. I am using these to plant Marigolds in. The Marigolds will be used to decorate the fair gate area. Let me know if you have any questions.

Diane McCullen

brand new composting bin!

The new composting bin has been delivered to the gardens. It is located by the shed. Please use the left side first. Once this is full and "cooking" we can begin to use the right side. If these both get filled we will begin to use the black plastic, rectangular one. Remember do not put seeds, weeds, or sticks in the bins. Let's make some amazing compost for our gardens!!!!



sevier county fair dept 31 submissions!

LOOK
What's
New!



LOOK
What's
New!



FLORAL DESIGN CONTEST

Department 31

"Love is Like a Butterfly" – 2022 Theme

Attention clubs, schools, organizations, and businesses...

Come together to create your creative flower pots and design!

01 Floral Design Contest

01 Creative Container

Premiums:

1st Prize - \$100

2nd Prize - \$75

3rd Prize - \$50



Container Size

- * 12" to 24" Height (without plants)
- * 12" to 24" Width (without plants)
- * 50 lbs. Maximum Weight
- * Height w/plant material no more than 5'

Judging Criteria

- * How well above theme is represented.
- * Overall design of container and plants.
- * Attractiveness.
- * All requirements met.

**Entries brought in August 28th 9:00am to 3:00pm
& August 29th 9:00am to 12:00pm only!**

Rules

- 1) You provide your own creative container that meets the above size requirements. You must be able to transport.
- 2) You provide all contents of your container and design.
- 3) 75% of your arrangement must be live plant material and last for 2 weeks in full sun. Fair will water as needed.
- 4) No cut flowers.
- 5) Your design must have a card listing all plant material used for the fair to make educational cards.
- 6) Containers must have been planted by the registered participant.
- 7) Plant containers will stay at the fairgrounds for the duration of the fair and can be picked up September 8th -10th.
- 8) Containers size limits are above, however, total size including plant material and design should not exceed 5' in height.
- 9) Sevier County Fair is not responsible for any lost or stolen items or any damage.
- 10) FREE to enter, but you must pre-register online at www.seviercountyfair.org.

staghorn sumac: the tree with velvet antlers



Rhus typhina, Staghorn Sumac by KingsbraeGarden

The staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is a very common and beneficial shrubby, deciduous tree found in a range extending from Quebec to Georgia, including all of Appalachia. It appears most often in dense thickets. But if properly cultivated and maintained, it can also be a useful addition to a pollinator and other native plant garden as both an ornamental and a food source for wildlife, especially birds, bees, and wasps.

A member of the *Rhus* genus, sumacs have such distant and exotic relatives as cashews, mangos, and pistachios but have a much closer relative in poison ivy, for the *Rhus* genus includes some woody vines as well as shrubs and trees. In fact, the staghorn sumac's other North American cousin, the poison sumac (thankfully rare in

Tennessee), contains the same rash-causing oil (urushiol) as poison ivy. The staghorn sumac, however, is safe to touch.

The staghorn sumac is known for three distinctive features: its shape, its velvety branches, and its fruit clusters. The tree's general shape, that of an umbrella or dwarf palm tree, is quite distinctive along roadsides, in abandoned lots, and at woodland borders. It has a small stem (typically no more than 3 inches in diameter) hoisting up an abundance of compound leaves that spread out in pinnate fashion to form a rounded canopy at the top portion of the trunk

The large compound leaves (up to 18 inches long) are comprised of 9 to 13 opposing leaflets plus a tip leaf (hence the odd number) while the

leaves themselves are arranged alternately. The leaflets are lance-like in shape with serrated edges and turn a brilliant red in the fall. The leaf stalks vary in color from green to red and are densely covered with fine hairs. The twigs also are covered with hairs, giving the young branches in particular a velvety appearance, much like that of a buck deer's new antlers, which is the tree's second distinctive characteristic and the source of its popular name, "staghorn."

A fast-growing tree (some would list it as a shrub), the staghorn sumac is not at all fussy about soil as long as its roots are well-drained and it stands in a sunny location. In rich soil, the tree can grow to a height of 16 feet with a width of 20 feet but is usually much smaller, more commonly closer to half those dimensions. It nearly always occurs with a thicket of shrubby companions, for the sumac propagates, not only by seed, but by numerous rhizomes that send up suckers around the parent like weeds and can become quite invasive. Although these suckers are easy for gardeners to remove, new ones are persistent in replacing them, making the staghorn sumac an unsuitable companion for nearby plants.

The tree's third distinctive characteristic is its fruit cluster, consisting of dusky red, upturned drupes, each containing a single seed. The overall shape of the cluster is conical and occurs at the branch

tips. However, these clusters appear only on female trees because the staghorn sumac is dioecious—that is, produces male and female flowers on separate plants. This explains the needs for the tree to have so many suckers, the large colony improving the chances of having both male and female trees around the parent. The only way to tell the difference between the male and female trees is that the males flowers are slightly larger than the female and have golden stamens. Both types of flowers are pale green and occur in panicles, and both strongly attract pollinators, which the tree needs to transfer the pollen from the male to the female trees.

Native Americans and the early settlers used the tree's fruits to make a lemonade-like drink, often called sumac tea. The leaves, bark, and stems were also used as a dye. The staghorn sumac is also regarded as fire-resistant and largely pest and disease free.

Sources:

Minnesota Wildflowers. "Rhus typhina." <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/tree/staghorn-sumac> (Feb. 5, 2022).

North Carolina Extension Service. Rhus typhina. <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/rhus-typhina/> (Feb. 4, 2022).

U. S. Forest Service. "Staghorn Sumac," www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/rhus_typhina.shtml (Feb. 4, 2022).



april meeting features anakeesta's beauty

You won't want to miss our April meeting as we welcome Madeline Samec, Horticulturist for Anakeesta, who will tell us about this destination's stunning Vista Gardens. Madeline has more than 20 years of horticultural experience working alongside Extension educators, nonprofit Gardens and now an adventure theme park. Madeline specializes in native plants, mass planting, rooting, and seeding. She is passionate about the natural beauty of the mountains and excited to add

magic with plant life. Madeline is inspired by her husband and her two children. In her free time, Madeline likes to garden at home, cook, and plow through gardening catalogs.

Monthly Meeting April 18, 2022, at 6:30pm

[Click here to Join the Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 871 6913 7267
MUST ENTER PASSCODE: 362759

TEMG PLANS FOR 2022

DISTANCE CONNECTIONS FOR EMGS

11 AM ET/10 AM CT- Live on Zoom
Tours, Teaching and Q and A with our statewide Extension Hort Team
June 3: First Friday Hort Session
Aug. 5: First Friday Hort Session
Sept. 9: TEMG Friday Focus

Nov. 4- First Friday Hort Session

LIVE TEMG EVENTS

May 6: Friday Field Day- Flowers
Mar. 25th & 26th: Western Region TEMG Conference
June 9th-11th: State TEMG Conference, Northeast TN
Oct. 20th: Leadership Day



UTIA AND EXTENSION EVENTS

June 14th: Fruits of the Backyard Field Day, Spring Hill
Jul. 14th: Summer Celebration, Jackson
Aug. 30th: Fall Gardener's Festival, Crossville

Online event signups as well as live event registration will be found on the [state website](#). Plus, connect with your coordinator and local officers for all the details.



SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

MARCH 21, 2022

PRESENTATION

Cindy Wolford and Tammie Browning presented the results of the 2021 Sevier County Fair.

BUSINESS MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Tammie Browning called the business meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

Total attendance = 27 (17 in person and 10 via Zoom)

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the February 21, 2022, meeting were approved without addition or correction by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was approved without addition or correction by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Recent Online Survey regarding Meeting Day/Time and use of Zoom: Tammie reported that there were 25 responses. Of those responding, 13 favored a change in meeting

day/time while 10 did not. And 13 favored in-person meetings while 10 favored Zoom. The survey results will be sent to the membership in an email.

NEW BUSINESS

Matthew Anderson, our new Extension Agent and MG Coordinator, introduced himself. His bio was recently sent to the membership.

Sheila McNeely introduced herself. She is the Volunteer Representative for the MG Eastern Region reporting to Natalie Bumgarner and a member of the Knox County MG Association (Class of 2019).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ask-a-Master-Gardener: No report. Audrey MacLellan was not present.

Demo Garden: Diane McCullen stated that the mulch for the Demo Garden has been delivered and that Saturday, March 26th will be a workday. Also, she said that a volunteer is still needed for the Gate Bed.

Flower & Garden Show: Andy Bush stated that an announcement

showing the Flower Sale schedule with all of the volunteer opportunities associated with it. We will not be renting tables this year but will use the Fair Grounds tables instead. Vendors may rent them for \$10 or bring their own tables.

Greenhouse: Dixie Seaton stated that there is still no electrical service for the greenhouse. A watering schedule has been sent to the greenhouse volunteers.

Junior Master Gardeners: Tammie Browning reported currently JMG has 17 participants organized into 2 groups: 3rd-5th Grades meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month and the 6th-8th Grades plus 2 9th Graders meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. JMG Camp will be on June 3rd and 4th this year.

Senior Center: Glenna Julian reported that the County government provided the new greenhouse cover. A new Coordinator for the greenhouse is needed. The Senior Center Plant Sale will be held on April 30th from 9:00 AM to Noon in the parking lot with the revenues going

scamga speakers bureau

We all have our areas of gardening expertise that we hop you would be willing to share with our group or other groups in our community.

John Oakberg is our Member at Large and the primary contact for this project. Please remember that he is your member contact with the board. Contact John Oakberg, Steve Wilson, or Tammie Browning if you have questions.

If you have ideas, projects, etc., to be considered please call John. He is also in charge of the Speakers Bureau, so if you haven't signed up, please do so. As things continue to open up, we could have community groups seeking speakers in the late summer and fall. So please register if you are interested in sharing your expertise with local groups (while earning service hours).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

to the Senior Center Backyard Habitat Project and Butterfly House maintenance. Workdays are ongoing on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

County Fair: Tammie Browning reported that the Fairgrounds roadside sign is in need of repair and may become a Scout project.

Tomato Seed Project: Tammie Browning reported that this project will not be held this year. However, a modified version of the project will be held at Northview Elementary only on April 1st at 8:00am.

Wilderness Wildlife Week: Steve Greenwell reviewed the WWW activities and benefits for Matthew Anderson and Sheila McNeely..

Newsletter: Teresa Rae - The deadline for submissions for the April newsletter is April 1st.

Extension Agent's Report: Matthew Anderson thanked those who volunteered for Tennessee Tree Day and invited members to attend the first day of MG training for a new class of 9 that will start on Wednesday, March 23rd.

Glenna Julian announced that she will be judging King's Academy's application for Backyard Certification on April 4th at 3:15 PM.

Carl Parsons announced that he will have a novel about farming entitled Locust Hill that will appear on the Spillwords Press website starting in April, with one chapter per month posted over the next 13 months.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Parsons

Secretary



treasury report

Sevier Co. Area Master Gardener Assoc. | February 2022

MG & JMG Total for January, 2022:

\$9,925.69

MASTER GARDENERS

MG Carryover from January, 2022, (YTD)

\$5,482.53

Transactions	Inflows	Outflows	Year to Date
Membership Dues	\$150.00		\$190.00
Sevier County Fair			
Plant Sale			
Clear Covers			
Demo Garden			
Greenhouse		-\$540.71**	-\$540.71
Fair Beautification			
MG Flower Show			
Miscellaneous			
Ice Cream Social			
MG Craft Fair			
Zoom Fees			
Christmas Dinner			
Subtotals	\$150.00	-\$540.71**	-\$350.71
Net Change for February			-\$390.71
MG Ending Balance on February 28, 2022 (YTD)			\$5,091.82
MG Net Change for 2022*			-\$350.71

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS:

JMG Carryover from January, 2022, (YTD)

+\$4,443.16

Transactions	Inflows	Outflows	Year to Date
Donations			
Sevier Co. Mayor Donation			
Greenhouse			
Supplies			
Sevier County Fair			
Miscellaneous			
Storage Building		-\$51.25	
Adjustments			
Subtotals		-\$51.25	-\$51.25
Net Change for February			-\$51.25
JMG Ending Balance on February 28, 2022 (YTD)			\$4,391.91
JMG Net Change for 2022*			-\$51.25
MG and JMG Total on February 28, 2022			\$9,483.73
MG-JMG Net Change for 2022**			\$441.96

*Defined as the credits vs debits over each calendar year.

**Greenhouse: check 8076, Karen Less, seeds for greenhouse, \$52.58; check 5106, Sara Gibson, seeds for greenhouse, \$39.22; check 5112, Smokey Mtn. Co-Op, greenhouse supplies, \$448.91

February 2022 Treasury Report prepared by Donald Nordstrand



CONTACT

officers

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Newsletter content is due on the 1st of each month, and should be emailed to peatree@peatreedesigns.com
Articles submitted by members are welcome and should be 300-500 words. Photographs should be at least 3Mb in size. Please make sure emails that contain attachments are less than 10Mb (combined). If attachments exceed 10Mb, send in separate emails or use Dropbox.

committee chairs

Flower & Garden Show & Sale
ANDY BUSH | pgbush@juno.com | 865.363.1515

Craft Fair
Scrapbook
Tomato Seed Project
Junior Master Gardener
Greenhouse Education Committee
TAMMIE BROWNING
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Ask-A-Master Gardener
VACANT

Demonstration Garden
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Greenhouse Policy Committee
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Wilderness Wildlife Week
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Sev Co Fair MG Exhibit Area
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Newsletter
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Photo credit: Tammie Browning

If you dig **DEEP** into the dirt,
you'll pull out a **SOUL.**

- Anthony Liccione
American poet, author, Army National Guard