

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



SEVIER COUNTY
UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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On the cover: Turkeys hide from Thanksgiving in an overgrown garden. (vecteezy.com)



letter from the president

As my year ends as your president, I wanted to say thank you to each and every one of you for giving your time and talents to our organization. Some are able to give many hours, while others are not. But, I want you to know that every single hour matters. No one is more important than another and I know firsthand what each of you can bring to the table. You all are needed! I have been the person giving 1200 hours in one year and I now find myself giving much less because life is different now. And it will be less in the future. That is ok. We do what we can; when we can. When you give even one hour it makes a difference to someone somewhere. All these projects, service opportunities, and outreach programs can use you, even for just an hour or two from time to time. For those leading those events, it makes a world of difference having you there to help. It is so hard to try to do so many things with little help. For those we are trying to make an impact on, who knows what difference you can make for them! I have not been able to give my all this year as your president. Honestly, I have not been able to

give even close to what I wish I could have. I was able to fill a vacant spot and do just what had to be done and I am sorry I was not able to do more. I close out my 5th year as your president (not consecutive), thankful to be able to serve with a great group of folks and hopeful that others will step forward to help our organization “grow”. We need you – each of you – to give what you can. I look forward to seeing what new visions and directions come with a new president in 2023!

Tammie Browning

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



INPUT YOUR VOLUNTEER & CE HOURS ASAP TO GET YOUR PINS AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Tracking your hours not only helps YOU reach TEMG requirements, but also counts toward support of our programs!

25 VOLUNTEER HOURS
 INTERNS: 40

8 CE HOURS
 INTERNS: 0

opportunities



educational

volunteer

Senior Center Garden Workdays First Saturday and Third Wednesday of each month 9:00 am.

Demo Garden Workdays (3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm every month).

January 17th - 1:00 pm workday

February 21st - 1:00 pm workday

March 21st - 1:00 pm workday

Christmas for the Birds, Wednesday, December 21, 9 am, My People Senior Activity Center.

Save the Date! Wilderness Wildlife Week, The Ramsey Hotel, Pigeon Forge. January 24-28, 2023. [MORE INFO HERE.](#)

Save the Date! Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9 am to 3 pm, Sevier County Fairgrounds.

meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 21, 6:30 pm. Sevier County Extension Building. Board will meet at 5:30 pm.

Annual Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, THURSDAY, December 8, Sevierville Golf Club, 1444 Old Knoxville Highway, Sevierville. Details available at October meeting.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, January 9 (one week earlier than usual due to MLK Holiday), 6:30 pm; Board Meeting prior to monthly meeting time TBA.

New Master Gardener Class, Jan 31 - May 2, Tuesdays 10am - 1pm. Hands-on sessions TBA. Have interested prospective master gardeners contact Matt to get on the interest list.

Melody's Monday Musings

(Greene County), [More info HERE.](#)

Did you know that you can earn CE hours watching popular gardening shows on YouTube? Go to YouTube and search for Growing A Greener World, Brie the Plant Lady, Gardeners World, GardenSmartTV, and other garden related shows. There are also lots of garden tours available from all over the world. You could easily get way more than your minimum 8 CE hours and learn some things to help you be a better gardener.

SAVE THE DATES!

Wilderness Wildlife Week, The Ramsey Hotel, Pigeon Forge. January 24-28, 2023. [MORE INFO HERE.](#)

30th Annual Organic Growers School Spring Conference, February 24-26, 2023, Mars Hill University, Mars Hill, NC. [MORE INFO HERE.](#)

International Master Gardeners Conference, June 18-22, 2023, Overland Park, Kansas. [MORE INFO HERE.](#)

2023 SCAMGA ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee is preparing for elections to be held at our next meeting on November 21st. We want to hear from everyone who is interested in filling one of the following positions:

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
TREASURER
MEMBER AT LARGE

Attached is a list of the officer duties, as shown in our bylaws. Please look at the duties and if you wish for your name to be considered by the

Nominating Committee, please let anyone on the committee know by Thursday, November 10th. Also, if you have any questions, contact any of the Nominating Committee listed below. John Oakberg, the current Member at Large, has agreed to be nominated for Treasurer, making it necessary to have nominations for Member at Large.

The Board meets 6 times a year in the odd-numbered months, before the general meeting.

If you are not ready at this time to be on

the Board but know someone you think would work well as a board member, please encourage them to contact us.

Thank you for considering taking on the important job of being on the SCAMGA board - we look forward to hearing from you!

The Nominating Committee,

John Oakberg
Carl Parsons
Dixie Seaton



This article submitted by Carl Parsons



Photo courtesy of Tennessee Invasive Plant Council

don't plant this: purple loosestrife

Where there is water, there is likely to be purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), if not today, then soon. This beautiful invader presents flower spikes loaded with tiny but vivid magenta flowers rising above smooth-edged lance-shaped leaves. Purple loose strife is a “gift” to North America from Europe and Asia, first noted in Lake Ontario in 1869, but now spread throughout most of North America wherever wetlands prevail—in lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, even continuously wet ditches—where it displaces our native plants, such as goldenrods, boneset, joe-pie weed, ironweed, and marsh marigolds.

Here are some key features of purple loosestrife:

- Grows 2 – 4 feet tall in no more than two feet of water, hence mostly along shorelines, and prefers full sun.
- Blooms from July to October.
- Has woody stems with 4-6 sides rather than rounded.
- Propagates by seed (up to 2.4 million seeds per pod) and by root division to form dense mats of roots that choke out other plants and block water access.
- Has become one of the most highly invasive plants in North America.

So, despite its relative beauty, purple loosestrife is a great challenge for those trying to maintain lakes and ponds or even agricultural irrigation sites with ditches and channels. Control requires manual or mechanical digging; large stands require chemical controls that then risk polluting the water. Consequently, early intervention is essential.

plant this instead: giant blue lobelia

A native plant that can easily rival purple loosestrife in beauty and height is giant blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), also known as blue cardinal flower. Like its rival, this perennial lobelia presents its tiny blue flowers drooping in mass on a flower spike above deep green foliage. It is especially effective

for providing blue color in rain gardens; use as an attractive food plant in pollinator gardens, where it attracts both butterflies and hummingbirds; and as a border plant along shorelines, where its tamer nature will not present the crowding problems caused by purple loosestrife.

Other notable features are:

- Grows well in climate zones 4 - 9 in both full sun and partial shade.
 - Can grow in both sandy and clay soils provided the pH is neutral to acidic and moist.
 - Rises to about 36 inches in height with a spread of approximately 23 inches.
 - Blooms profusely from mid-summer to late fall.
 - Propagates easily by division of its root clumps in early spring.
- And it provides that all too rare condition in nature—it's blue!



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november guest speaker philip haar

Before the November business meeting, our guest speaker will be Phillip Haar, Extension Area Specialist I | Eastern Region Office, Specializing in Nursery production in East Tennessee.

gardens growing many vegetable crops. Upon graduating high school Phillip enrolled at UGA where he earned a Bachelors in Environmental Science and Agriculture and later also earned a Masters in Entomology studying sugarcane aphids on grain sorghum. His graduate and undergraduate experience is largely row crop production with emphasis on insect pests, diseases and agronomy.

November 21, 2022
Board meeting, 5:30 pm
Monthly meeting, 6:30pm
See you there!



City girl falls in love with country boy in my novel, *Locust Hill*. Now available serially at Spillwords Press, *Locust Hill* details the struggles of an independent, small acreage farm family in the Mid-Ohio Valley region of West Virginia. With wife Cassandra as the narrator, the novel relates her discovery of a different world just outside her hometown, a quaint rural village where people survive and maintain their community by helping one another. During their life together, Cassandra learns that her husband, Jim Russell, has become the very embodiment of this spirit.

With Chapter One debuting now, you can read *Locust Hill* for free, a new chapter each month, at: <https://spillwords.com/locust-hill-i/>.

And don't forget to click the "Like" icon if you enjoy the chapters. Also, check out the short stories about *Locust Hill* at the same website. Just search the Spillwords website for CARL PARSONS.

Originally from McDonough, Ga just north of Griffin, Phillip Haar grew up on a farm where his family raised pigs, cows, goats, turkeys and chickens. He spent a lot of time outdoors in the woods and started collecting insects when at four years old. As he got older he also became interested in trees and plants and started having annual organic

2022 dues are (past) due | \$25 per MG

Second person from the same household is \$15

THESE FOLKS HAVE PAID 2022 DUES AS OF NOV 8th*:

Pam Barron	Guane Julian	Jerry Shonk
Henry Barse	Brad Knight	Donna Stinnett
Linda Barse	April Laue	Renee Thrap
Tammie Browning	Karen Less	Steve Wilson
Andy Bush	Leo Lubke	Ellen Yatteau
Pat Butler	Audrey MacClellan	
Lois Cooper	Colette Mancke	
Joan Falsone	Diane McCullen	
Patsy Farmer	Donald Norstrand	
Bonnie Gathergood	Linda Oakberg	
Sarah Gibson	John Oakberg	
Steve Greenwell	Sandra Palmer	
Karen Hall	Carl Parsons	
Kathleen Hammer	Melinda Paxson	
Melanie Hill	Teresa Rae	
Glenna Julian	Dixie Seaton	

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.



SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

OCTOBER 17, 2022

ATTENDANCE: 12 plus guest speaker

CALL TO ORDER at 6:39 PM with Member-at-Large John Oakberg presiding in the absence of both the president and vice president.

PROGRAM: The speaker was Natalie Bumgarner, Coordinator for the State MG Program and Associate Professor for Consumer Horticulture at UT. Her topic was “Small Fruit Selection for Tennessee Gardeners.”

BUSINESS MEETING: Called to Order at 7:36 PM

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING: The Minutes were approved without change by voice vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Approval of the report was deferred to the next meeting because, for the second month in a row, the account balances did not appear to be correct. Neither the August nor the September Treasurer’s Reports have been approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Christmas Party: The annual SCAMGA Christmas Party will be held at the Sevierville Golf Clubhouse next to the Wilderness

Resort on December 8th from 5:30 to 8:30. The cost is \$10 per member and \$20 for guests. Payment is due by November 21st. Members are encouraged to make centerpieces for the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ask-a-Master-Gardener: No report.

County Fair: No report.

Demo Garden: Carl Parsons reported for Diane McCullen that the straw bale garden will be dismantled, and the compost used in the Keyhole and Lasagna Gardens. Also, the Bermuda grass will be spayed with a specialized herbicide.

Greenhouse: Dixie Seaton reported no recent activity.

Senior Center: The Christmas for the Birds event will be held at the Senior Center on Wednesday, October 19th.

JMG: Dixie Seaton reported that the JMG members will be taking a field trip on October 19 to Seven Islands State Park.

Tomato Seed Project: This event will be resumed in 2023 with Patsy Farmer as the new chairperson. She will be needing volunteers for each school.

Plant Sale: The next Plant Sale is April 22, 2023.

Wilderness Wildlife Week: Steve Greenwell reported that the WWW 2023 booklets are not yet available. The event is scheduled for January 24 – 28.

Nominating Committee: John Oakberg stated that we need nominees for the positions of president, vice president, and treasurer for the 2023 club year.

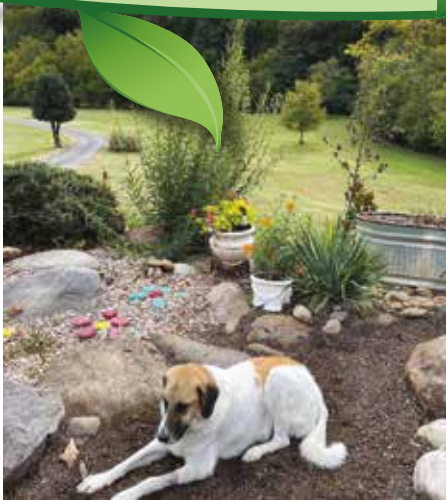
Announcements:

Dixie Seaton announced that the Sevierville Garden Club has ferns and coleus available for overwintering.

Carl Parsons announced that Chapter 7 (of 12) of his novel, Locust Hill, will be published online by Spillwords Press in early November. Exact date not available yet.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Parsons
Secretary



Pippa, Diane's Anatolia Shepherd / Great Pyrenees found Fall at Lolli & Pop's Farm.

demo garden news

We had a great Demo Garden meeting on October 17th. I want to thank everyone who came. I am hoping that more of you will come out and help in the gardens this winter and spring. I am going to have a consistent work day each month that you can put on your calendar and plan around. I thought we might try the third Tuesday of each month. We will begin in January on Tuesday, Jan. 17th at 1:00 pm. We will be starting new gardens and cleaning out the old. Matt has scheduled several tours in the spring, so we all need to pull together to make the gardens something that we can really be proud of!

See you in the garden,
Diane McCullen

SCAMGA Christmas Party

Thursday, December 8, 2022
Sevierville Golf Course
Dinner starts at 6:00 pm

Name: _____
How many guests: _____
Phone # _____
E-mail: _____
Dietary Restrictions: _____

Cost: \$10 for Current Certified Master Gardeners, \$ 20 for guest.
2022 Interns are Free!

Deadline for registration and payment is due
Wednesday November 23.

treasury report

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Assoc. | September 2022

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
MASTER GARDENERS:			
SEVIER COUNTY	\$1,954.36	\$1,979.36	\$1,979.36
UT	\$2,794.16	\$2,794.16	\$2,703.83
TOTAL	\$4,748.52	\$4,773.52	\$4,683.19
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS:			
SEVIER COUNTY	\$272.80	\$272.83	\$216.97
UT	\$1,589.35	\$1,589.35	\$1,484.35
TOTAL	\$1,862.18	\$1,862.18	\$1,701.32
COMBINED MG & JMG:			
SEVIER COUNTY	\$2,227.19	\$2,252.19	\$2,196.33
UT	\$4,383.51	\$4,383.51	\$4,188.18
TOTAL	\$6,610.70	\$6,635.70	\$6,384.51

MONTHLY ACTIVITY

MASTER GARDENERS: TRANSACTIONS	INFLOWS	OUTFLOWS	YEAR TO DATE
Adjustments			-\$2,793.83
Demo Garden			-\$612.02
Greenhouse			-\$3,417.51
Master Gardener (General)			\$75.00
Membership Dues			\$775.00
Miscellaneous			-\$100.56
MG Flower Show			\$226.00
Plant Sale			\$2,114.97
Sevier County Fair			-\$460.00
Storage Building			-\$50.80
SUBTOTALS	\$0.00	-\$0.00	
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS:			
TRANSACTIONS	INFLOWS	OUTFLOW	YEAR TO DATE
4 - H Scholarships			-\$600.00
Adjustments^			-\$2,914.35
Demo Garden			-\$36.32
Greenhouse			-\$13.44
JMG Camp			-\$530.02
Miscellaneous*		-\$55.86	-\$102.00
Plant Sale			+\$500.00
Sevier County Fair			-\$120.00
Storage Building			-\$105.00
SUBTOTALS	\$0.00	-\$55.86	

*Supplies for JMG meeting

September 2022 Treasury Report prepared by Donald Nordstrand



CONTACT

officers

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UT Sev Co Extension office: (865) 453-3695

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
Greenhouse Education Committee
TAMMIE BROWNING
shallywag@yahoo.com | 865.604.4829

Ask-A-Master Gardener
VACANT

Demonstration Garden
DIANE MCCULLEN
ldmccullen@sbcglobal.net | 832.605.5769

Greenhouse Coordinator
DIXIE SEATON | tdseaton@aol.com | 615.498.0340

Greenhouse Policy Committee
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Junior Master Gardener
MELANIE HILL | wanderingmel@yahoo.com | M: 559.904.1674

Newsletter
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Senior Center
GLENNA JULIAN | julian1955@comcast.net
H: 865.933.0747 | M: 865.368.3632

Sev Co Fair MG Exhibit Area
VACANT

Wilderness Wildlife Week
STEVE GREENWELL | 9catsfarm@gmail.com | 865.556.3636

calling all master gardeners!

Matthew can use your help with the hands-on portions of each class. If you have any ideas on hands-on activities related to the week's topic and want to come lead the hands-on portion, let him know. All previous Master Gardeners are welcome to come and hang out with the new interns.



January 31 to May 2, 2023
10:00 am to 2:00pm

MASTER GARDENER INTERN TRAINING

752 Old Knoxville Hwy
Sevierville, TN

\$175

- ✓ Soils & Cover Crops
- ✓ Botany
- ✓ Landscape Design
- ✓ Entomology
- ✓ and more!

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Tennessee CONNECTIONS
Small Ways to Save
Page 6

The Path of Electricity
How to Make a Budget

Check out the article in the Fall issue of *Tennessee Connections* promoting the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program! Thanks for the heads-up, Sarah G!

2023 TEMG INTERN TRAINING			
WEEK #	DATE FOR SYNCHONOUS TRAINING	TOPIC	CHAPTER(S)
1	1/31	LOCAL GROUP ORIENTATION	-
2	2/7	TEMG ORIENTATION/ TN HORT OVERVIEW	1 & 2
3	2/14	ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP	4
4	2/24	SOILS & COVER CROPS	5 & 6
5	2/28	BOTANY & PROPAGATION	3
6	3/7	LANDSCAPE DESIGN & HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS	7 & 9
7	3/14	WOODY ORNAMENTALS & TREES	8
8	3/21	ENTOMOLOGY & IPM	13
9	3/28	PATHOLOGY	14
10	4/4	TURF & WEEDS	10 & 15
11	4/11	FRUITS	12
12	4/18	VEGETABLES	11
13	4/25	POLLINATORS & COUNTY WRAP UP	16
14	5/2	MULTI-COUNTY CAPSTONE EVENTS	-