

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

MARCH 2023



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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On the cover: A brave Fruit Salad tree (root stock is a Lovell Peach with Elberta Peach, Blenheim Apricot, Santa Rosa Plum grafts) bursts with early blooms during early Spring temps. Photo credit: Karen Less

march meeting info guest speaker: diane warwick



March 20, 2023, 6:30pm

Diane Warwick will be joining us at the March meeting to talk about the benefits of trees and native plants in Tennessee, with some information about non-native invasive plant species.

Diane is Tennessee’s state urban forestry program coordinator. After receiving her BS in Natural Resources and Land Management

at UT Knoxville she worked for the National Park Service, then back to school to receive her MS in Forest Biology from UTK. Currently she has worked for the Forestry Division for 24 years and has extensive background in forestry related issues.



ordering master gardener apparel

Submit order form and payment to Debbie at extension office.

DEADLINE
Monday, March 20

Questions???
Contact Karen Less (828.308.5864 or greyheroncrafts@gmail.com)

SEVIER COUNTY
EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

2023 Tennessee Home Vegetable and Fruit Garden Calendar is online now!
[> CLICK HERE <](#)



opportunities



educational

volunteer

Tomato Seed Project is underway. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Patsy Farmer at 865.850.9644.

My People Senior Activity Center Garden Workdays First Saturday and Third Wednesday of each month 9:00 am. March 4 & 15.

Master Gardener Intern Training, Tuesdays 10 am to 2 pm. Help train our 2023 intern class with hands-on activities. Contact Matt Anderson for details.

Tree Day, Friday, Mar 17. Need help sorting trees at 1pm on Thursday, 3/16 and passing out trees on Friday, 3/17, 9am-5pm.

Demo Garden Workdays (3rd Tuesday at 1:00 pm every month). March 21, April 18, May 16.

Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, Saturday, April 22, 2023, 9 am to 3 pm, Sevier County Fairgrounds. Multiple volunteers needed. Volunteers needed for set up on Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21.

My People Senior Activity Center Plant Sale Saturday, April 29, 9 am to Noon. Volunteers needed to assist with sale.

Tennessee Home Garden Variety Trials 2023 [Click HERE for details.](#)

meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, March 20, 6:30 pm (scheduled board meeting 5:30 pm unless otherwise announced).

UT Gardens Knoxville Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 1, 9am-2pm, Gardens Entrance Plaza, 2518 Jacob Drive. [More info here.](#)

Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 17, 6:30 pm (no scheduled board meeting).

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

My People Senior Activity Center Plant Sale Saturday, April 29, 9 am to Noon. Volunteers needed to assist with sale.

33rd Annual Asheville Herb Fest, WNC Agricultural Center, Fletcher, NC (close to Asheville Regional Airport), Friday, May 5-Sunday, May 7. [Details Here.](#)



Interested in participating in a grad student project for one of our own EMG coordinators on crapemyrtle bark scale? [CLICK HERE.](#)

Image credits: Mengmeng Gu, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bugwood.org

Spring Gardening Series, 11:00 am. King Family Library. We have a few MGs presenting!

March 9: Native Plant Agriculture

March 16: Backyard Birds

March 23: Garden Vegetables for Fermentation

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop, Friday, Mar 24, 1pm. \$15. More info, page 10.

Understanding Soil and Water Quality with K-TEST, Mar 25, 1-3pm. UT Knoxville Gardens, South Greenhouse, Room 124. [More info here.](#) [Register here.](#)

Friday Office Hours in Horticulture, April 14, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8. [Register here to receive reminders.](#) See the entire 2022 playlist [HERE!](#)

International Master Gardeners Conference, June 18-22, 2023, Overland Park, Kansas. Early Bird registration discount expires March 1. [MORE INFO HERE.](#)

Melody's Monday Musings (Greene County), [More info HERE.](#)

More TEMG events in [THIS CALENDAR!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Eastern Regional Tennessee Master Gardener Conference, September 8-9, 2023, Hamilton County. Registration will begin in July.

DUES ARE DUE!
See page 9 for more info

letter from the president

Time to start those seeds!

Can't say it snuck up on us, but WOW! The warm weather we recently had sure kicked off the growing season, eh?!

Please read ALL the notes here in the newsletter from our projects' chairmen. Not only is this a busy season starting in home gardens but so begins our busiest season with our Sevier County Master Gardener projects! A few people can't do it all, so please think of how you can help out even just a couple of hours in March or April!



We've already planted some seeds and will have more in the soil shortly in the **Teaching Patch Greenhouse**. We can always use more hands, especially with watering and transplanting in about a month. See the article on ways to help get ready for Plant Sale.



And speaking of Plant Sale, organization is in full swing for that, and as you know it's an "all hands on deck" event. Great time to pick up service hours! Tammie Browning will have a lot more to say on service hours opportunities there.

Please come out for any announced worked days in the **Teaching Patch Demo Garden**. We've had some weather issues on scheduled days, so watch for those random emails on rescheduled times. Or you are always welcome to pull weeds out of the mulch ANYTIME!! Service Hours Abound! For more information contact Diane McCullen.

Our **Tomato Seed Project** with all the county Kindergarteners is now underway. What a fun project to work on! Let Patsy Farmer know if you want to be on the list of helpers, as there are lots of schools to cover in March!

In the midst of that, there are **lists of CEU opportunities**, from the Keep Sevier Beautiful classes, to the UT Gardens offerings, local nurseries offering classes, and don't forget the International Master Gardener Conference in Kansas in June. Sign up now for that wonderful opportunity – we have several going from our club! Check the list in this newsletter.

And Don't Skip our Meeting Programs! Diane is lining up excellent speakers – this month will help us care for the trees in our landscape. Bring your questions and issues!



All that to say THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOLUNTEER SPIRIT! Find a way to help us during this busy, busy spring season. Sharing the load always make light work!

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President



Photos on this page are interns in the demo garden and greenhouse. We love our interns! More greenhouse & demo garden news on page 7.



jmg goes native

Junior Master Gardeners have been busy learning about plants and their processes, especially those of Tennessee native plants. They have sown seeds of over 25 native Tennessee plants that they collected (with permission) from the Seven Islands Birding Park and UT Crossville native garden.

Seedlings will be sold to raise money for JMG and will be used to create demonstration beds at the Demo garden. As part of their study of native plants, JMgers are also studying the benefits of native plants and the habitats/food they create for wildlife. They will also be creating bug houses to help increase the chances for more beneficial bugs in the garden.

Melanie Hill
JMG Leader



tomato seed project

Hey fellow Master Gardeners. The Tomato Seed Project that SCAMGA sponsors is going strong. For those of you who are not familiar, this is a program where we go into all the schools that have Kindergarteners and help them plant their very own tomato seeds. First, the teacher divides the class into three groups. One group sits at their desk and colors, one group sits on the carpet while one of the Master Gardeners reads them a book about tomatoes. (Linda Oakberg is a Pro at this). And the last group goes to a table where the Master Gardeners are all set up to help them plant their tomato seeds. We schedule one school per day in the mornings. This is a most rewarding project to participate in and you will not want to miss it!!

I am so excited about our Tomato Seed Project and looking forward to working with many of you. TEAMWORK divides the task and multiplies the SUCCESS.

Patsy Farmer
Chairman, Tomato Seed Project
(865) 850-9644

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.

Andrew Hennigh is our Member at Large and the primary contact for this project. Please remember that he is your member contact with the board. Contact Andrew Hennigh, Diane McCullen, or Dixie Seaton if you have questions.

If you have ideas, projects, etc., to be considered please call Andrew. 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).





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

FEBRUARY 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 31 plus the guest speaker. Matt Anderson was absent for paternity leave.

PROGRAM:

Phil Haar, Eastern Region Nursery Specialist with Tennessee State University, presented “Greenhouse and Garden Vegetable Production.”

BUSINESS MEETING:

CALL TO ORDER: 7:45 PM

MINUTES: The January Minutes were accepted without change.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Sarah Gibson questioned why the 2022 financial data had revenues for the Craft Fair when none was held last year. Treasurer John Oakberg answered that UT apparently attributed revenues from another project to the Craft Fair account incorrectly. Sarah also requested that the JMGs have a separate financial report instead of just a single line in the MG financial report. John indicated that the JMG leadership would have to produce that report as the MG Treasurer is only responsible for the overall SCAMGA budget and reports.

ANNUAL AUDIT TEAM: Dixie requested state that 3 volunteers are needed for the annual audit of the previous year’s financial activity.

INTERN CLASS: She also stated that this year’s MG Class has 6 interns.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WEEK: Steve

Greenwell thanked those who assisted with the SCAMGA booth at WWW: Andy Bush, Karen Hall, Becky Jones, Colette Mancke, Dixie Seaton, and Diane McCullen for providing seed packets.

TOMATO SEED PROJECT: Patsy Farmer reported that all of the Sevier County schools have now been scheduled and seem enthusiastic about the return of this activity. Also, she stated that she has enough volunteers for all of the schools but would still welcome anyone else who wants to volunteer.

SENIOR CENTER: Glenna Julian stated that the current SCAMGA interns visited the Senior Center and that 11 members have volunteered to help with the Center planting beds and greenhouse. Workdays are the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month from 10:00 to Noon.

PLANT SALE: Tammie Browning reported that so far 5 vendors have signed up to participate. New hours this year will be 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, instead of 9-4 since the last two hours have not been well attended. Set up will be on April 21st and the sale itself on April 22nd. Diane McCullen requested items, such as useable pots, gardening tools, and gardening books for the Gardeners’ Store, a new feature of this year’s Plant Sale. Also, she stated that a volunteer is needed to set up the online sales using JotForm. Karen Less reported on plans for the MG booth at the plant sale. She stated that “our mission at the plant sale booth is to help set up for success gardeners in our community by helping them choose the ‘right plant the right place.’” She also pointed out that “in addition to the plants grown in the

greenhouse, members may grow and donate plants to the sale. These can be veggie, fruiting vines (blackberries, raspberries), landscape plants, indoor plants, succulents. The time you spend growing plants for the sale count as volunteer hours (Flower and Garden Show and Sale category). “We will provide information on where to drop off donated plants. If you will be donating plants, please send me the name of the plant you are growing from seed and where you bought the seeds so I can have the information ready for those of us working in the booth. If you are donating plants you dug up or separated from things you are already growing, please send as much information as you can on these plants to me ahead of time. We will need help setting up the booth Friday and people to work on Saturday. We also need one or two people to assist with someone to help with planning, staging, and setup. Let me know if you are interested.”

DEMO GARDEN: Diane McCullen announced a workday for the garden on Tuesday, February 21, starting at 1:00 PM.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

4-H Camp Sponsorships: Dixie asked the membership if we should fund 4-H sponsorships again this year. Last year we spent \$600 for this purpose. Tammie Browning moved that we should renew the funding at the same level; Andy Bush seconded the motion, which then passed by voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Master Gardener Gear: Karen Less discussed the new MG logo clothing that is available for order. No orders have been placed since 2018. Order forms are available from Debbie Hurst at the Extension Office. The deadline for

submitting them with payment is our March meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

KEEP SEVIER BEAUTIFUL: Dixie reminded the membership of the KSB lecture series at the King Family Library on Thursdays in March at 11:00 AM.

NEWSLETTER: Teresa Rae announced that the next newsletter deadline is March 1st.

NEXT PROGRAM: Diane McCullen announced that the speaker for the next SCAMGA meeting will be Diane Warwick, Program Specialist in the Forestry Division of the TN Department of Agriculture.

COUNTY FAIR SPONSORSHIPS: Tammie Browning asked the membership to consider whether we want to continue sponsorship of youth programs for the County Fair.

SEYMOUR GARDENING CLASSES IN MARCH AT THE SEYMOUR LIBRARY: Contact Karen Hall for details.

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE: Leo Lubke reminded the membership about the online registration for the 2023 International MG Conference to be held in Overland Park, Kansas, June 18 – 22.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Parsons
Secretary



hot news from the greenhouse

It's Getting Hot in the Greenhouse!

We have already started seeds in the greenhouse and will have another planting day soon. If you would like to help but not commit for the whole season, watch for our transplanting days the end of March/early April – it's a lot of work and can take lots of helpers even for a little bit. Interns will get some class time to become familiar with operations and process – and to get hands dirty!

If you would like to be on our Greenhouse Operations Team, let me know now and we'll get you on the group email and walk you through the process. We work together on the planting, watering, general maintenance. And then right before plant sale we'll do inventory and selling.

You are also encouraged to start seeds at home on your own or dig your perennial starts. We've even had berry starts potted and brought to sell before. My perennials are just now peeking up and within a couple of weeks will be ready to dig and pot. Don't forget to LABEL them! Always use new (or clean, bleach sanitized) pots and new soil

if the plant will tolerate it. No bugs or disease, please. Those will need to be brought to the Demo Garden by Tuesday, April 19, for the plant inspector. Those always sell well if they are healthy plants!

If you see a plant you think we really need to sell, email to check our list, or just pick up the seeds and leave in the office or greenhouse. You can reach me with any questions or to volunteer through the club email at SevierCoTNMasterGardeners@gmail.com. THANK YOU for your VOLUNTEER SPIRIT!

Dixie Seaton
Greenhouse Coordinator

demo garden news



I want to give a huge shoutout to everyone who came and worked in the demo gardens this month! We got a lot done but there is still more to do! Our next workday will be Tuesday, March 21st at 1:00 pm. I hope to see you there!

Our Golden Glove Gardener for the month of February is... Jeannie Ogle! She went after that Jasmine like it had personally wronged her! The Jasmine is down and hopefully we can kill it off this spring.

See you in the garden,
Diane McCullen

treasury report

Sevier Co. Area Master Gardener Assoc. | February 2023

Last month the Newsletter contained a new format of the monthly financial report, as presented at our Master Gardener (MG) general meeting in January.

This month it is changed again, to include a year-to-date summary of the budget, income, expenses and balance as of the end of the month presented. The left side of the statement shows the current month activity, the total summary is to the right.

After the February meeting, it appeared that more information was preferred.

As of the time of providing the report for the newsletter, the February account at UT had not yet been reconciled, so the end of January numbers have been used. This is to be expected, and is just part of dealing with the way the finances are set up with UT. There will always be a month delay in getting the UT numbers.

As we are seeing expenses being recorded for 2023, you all are doing a great job of giving Debbie the information she needs for the UT accounting system.

Thanks!

John Oakberg
Treasurer

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association February Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 01/31/23		5468.69				
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair decoration	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
County Fair MG	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	150.00
December dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Demo garden	0.00	94.69	(94.69)	1000.00	0.00	94.69	905.31
Dues	550.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	790.00	0.00	790.00
Greenhouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Plant sale	0.00	125.75	(125.75)	1200.00	0.00	125.75	1074.25
Scrapbook	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	75.00
Senior Center	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Storage unit	0.00	45.00	(45.00)	540.00	0.00	90.00	450.00
Tomato seed project	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
Virtual meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
Wilderness Wildlife Week	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals as of 02/28/23	550.00	265.44	5753.25	4080.00	790.00	310.44	4559.56
MG account balance	as of 01/31/23		4795.25				
JMG account balance	as of 01/31/23		2509.84				

MG Financial Report submitted by John Oakberg.

**JMG Financial Report
February 28, 2023**

	12/31/2023	2/28/2023
Knoxville Funds	2001.84	1963.84
Sevierville Funds	963.00	546.00
Total as of 12/31/2023	2964.84	2509.84
Category	Budgeted	Spent
EDUCATION:		
Education -beyond the classroom	250	
Field Trips	250	
Summer Programs	250	31.44
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION:		
Leaf and Vine Supplies	150	57.53
Buds Club Supplies	150	50.78
SUPPLIES-OTHER:		
Fall Kick Off	50	
Plant Sale	250	180.79
Garden	200	31.46
OTHER:		
Fair Sponsorship	60	
Fair Ad	120	
JMG Leader Training	65	65
Storage (3 months- we are going to clean out and give up the storage unit.	114	38
TOTAL:	1909	455
Extra Funds Not Budgeted	1055.84	

**Thanks to the following
MGs for paying your
2023 dues!**

*\$25 per MG;
\$15 for addtl MG spouse*

Jennifer Bacon
Henry Barse
Linda Barse
Tammie Browning
Andy Bush
Pat Butler
Natileene Cassel
Lois Cooper
Joan Falsone
Patsy Farmer
Rebecca Felty
Sarah Gibson
Steve Greenwell
Kathy Hammer
Andrew Hennigh
Melanie Hill
Glenna Julian
Guane Julian
Karen Less
Leo Lubke
Colette Mancke
Diane McCullen
John Oakberg
Linda Oakberg
Pam (Jeannie) Ogle
Sandra Palmer
Carl Parsons
Teresa Rae
Monica Scaccianoce
Dixie Seaton
Jerry Shonk
Donna Stinnett
Renee Thrap
Steve Wilson
Lois Worthington
Bonnie Young

JMG Financial Report submitted by Melanie Hill.



FRUIT TREE PRUNING WORKSHOP

FRIDAY MARCH 24TH AT 1 PM

HISTORY OF THE APPLE BARN
BEST PRUNING PRACTICES
LIVE DEMONSTRATION



Hosted by:



**\$15 Registration
Required**

Register online or in-person
with Sevier County Extension
865-453-3695

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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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

Ask-A-Master Gardener
VACANT

Demonstration Garden
DIANE MCCULLEN
ldmccullen@sbcglobal.net | 832.605.5769

Flower & Garden Show & Sale
Scrapbook
TAMMIE BROWNING
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Greenhouse Coordinator
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Senior Center
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H: 865.933.0747 | M: 865.368.3632

Sev Co Fair
VACANT

Tomato Seed Project
PATSY FARMER | patsyefarmer1950@gmail.com | 865.850.9644

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

Deadline for Ordering Master Gardener Apparel
Please submit order form and payment to Debbie at Extension Office no later than
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association
2023 Apparel Order Form

Item	Color(s)	Sizes	Price
Sweatshirt	Forest Green or Sand	S-4X*	\$18
Polo/Golf Shirt, Unisex	Dark Green	S-4X*	\$22
T-shirt without pocket, short sleeve, Unisex	Dark Green or Sand	S-4X*	\$14
T-shirt with pocket, short sleeve, Unisex	Dark Green or Sand	S-4X*	\$15
T-shirt, long sleeve, Unisex	Dark Green or Sand	S-4X*	\$15
Tri-Blend Tech T-shirt, Unisex	Frost Green or Heather Orange	S-4X*	\$16
Denim shirt, short sleeve, Unisex	Blue	S-4X*	\$25
Denim shirt, long sleeve, Unisex	Blue	S-4X*	\$27
Apron, Medium Length with pockets	Dark Hunter	One size	\$17
Field Hat (ball cap)	Dark Green	One size	\$12

* S-XL same price; 2X add \$2, 3X add \$4, 4X add \$6

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ORDER AND PAYMENT IS MARCH 20th
Checks made payable to UT Extension—Sevier County

Questions? Contact Karen Less at greyheroncrafts@gmail.com or 828-308-5864

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Quantity	Item	Color	Size	Price
TOTAL				



Questions??? Contact Karen Less (828.308.5864 or greyheroncrafts@gmail.com)