

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

MAY 2023



SEVIER COUNTY
UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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On the cover: A plethora of offerings in the SCAMGA area at the plant sale. Photo credit: Karen Less

in love with lavender may speaker: melanie hill

Meeting date: May 15, 2023, 6:30pm



Lavender has always been a favorite of Melanie's. She has been growing and harvesting it for over ten years, first in the central valley of California with its hot dry summers and now here in east Tennessee. It has been a learning experience with the growing conditions here, but through trial and error and a lot of research, Melanie's lavender is thriving. Along with her experiences, she will be sharing the different types of lavender, their growing conditions and uses, and some homemade lavender goodies!

Melanie is a retired middle school teacher of 27 years, having retired to East Tennessee with her husband and two dogs in 2019. From the MG class of 2021, she has since been involved with Junior Master Gardeners. She missed working with kids, but now she gets to learn about gardening alongside them!



opportunities



volunteer

Demo Garden Workdays, Tuesday, May 16 (regular work day), Friday, June 2 (tidy up for Firewise tours), Tuesday, June 20 (regular work day), all 9 am.

My People Senior Activity Center Plant Sale Wednesday, May 17, 9 am.

Matthew created a private portal for Master Gardeners to be able to access the Bylaws, contact list, volunteer manual. The link is at the bottom of the Master Gardener web page, and he has included the direct link as well. Let me know if you have any questions. It does require a password - check your email or call Matt to obtain.

meetings & events

Extreme Trailblazers, Monday, May 15, 7am. Guest speaker, Andrea Ludwig. \$10 to carpool or \$5 to meet up. Call to RSVP at 865-453-3695.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, May 15, 6:30 pm (board meeting time TBA).

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

Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 19th, 6:30 pm (no scheduled board meeting).

educational

Friday Office Hours in Horticulture, 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 has passed. [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.

introducing our new interns!

We have a small but very energetic and engaged new class of master gardeners. Join us at the meeting on May 15th to welcome them to our club. We'll have a special time to greet them.

Here is the Class of 2023:

Shauna Bayless
Linda Douglas
Jennifer Moderlli
Terrie O'Lear
Robin Wagner
Stacy Watson
Deborah Wilson



This group was very involved in helping get the Teaching Patch cleaned up for spring, and helping to plant in the greenhouse. They were also all over the Plant Sale working in all our areas. Thank you so much, Interns, for your service!

We that have been in the club a while need to remember that we also were new and Someone Invited Us in, shared not only their knowledge but shared their space and passion in the garden, projects and committees – they MENTORED US. They taught us about butterfly garden beds, lasagna

gardening, square foot gardening, how to answer Ask-a-Master Garden questions, how to be friendly and listen well to all strangers as we interact at our events. The best MGs Mentored us, not only on gardening, but on how to be a friend and welcome all in our club.

BE A MENTOR! Share your space, teach your interest. WELCOME INTERNS!

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President

letter from the president

What Kind of Volunteer Are You?

Everyone has their own talents, style, interests, energy level, physical abilities and yes, as we age, those last two can seem to decline earlier than we hoped for. And yet, everyone has something we can share with organizations that share a passion in common.

- You might really love digging in the dirt (yes, I didn't say soil...! MG joke...), getting it under your nails and getting real satisfaction seeing clean mulch, no weeds in your flower beds.
 - You might like studying the latest research, attending workshops, maybe setting up actual trials or experiments to see which varieties you think work best.
 - You might like teaching, sharing your knowledge with children, or seniors, or couples trying to grow their own food.
- You might be an organization-type person, and really like doing those databases or financial statements or social media pages the club needs but few enjoy or understand.
 - You might be more mechanical and like building the infrastructure gardeners need to plant in, get water from, or secure the tools and materials.
 - You might be very comfortable talking with strangers – at a desk in a public event or on a phone, helping to figure out their issues and why things aren't growing the way they'd like.
 - You might like to work alone, or you might thrive working in a team. You might feel confident with plant, bug and disease names, or feel like a real novice.

The point is – everyone is different, and everyone can

contribute. An organization such as Master Gardeners relies first on education in the subject, and then on relationships – which are only built by attending events and meetings, working together on projects and getting time to converse and learn about our shared and unique love of plants and gardening. Whether you're a "seasoned" MG or a new Intern, your background and knowledge is needed and valued.

There are too many talented, dedicated master gardeners in our SCAMGA to begin to thank them all for their years of work and thought and energy and knowledge. I'm blessed to call them Friends. And I am excited to include our new Interns in my projects, and my circle of Gardening Friends.

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President





jmg helping the bees

In conjunction with learning how native plants are essential to our environment here in east Tennessee, JMgers are also learning what native plants need to survive. One important factor is that native plants need pollinators and pollinators need native plants just as much! On March 15, Master Gardener Steve Greenwell shared his experiences with pollinators with a focus on mason bees.

Mason bees are solitary, non aggressive bees that rarely sting. They do not make honey, but they are fantastic pollinators. All female mason bees are queens and raise their offspring on her own. They lay their eggs inside existing tunnels. Bee houses are a perfect way to help the mason bee.

Steve took birdhouses found in storage and created mason bee houses for JMG. He used these to teach JMgers about the mason bee habits. JMgers then made their own bee/bug hotels to take home. All the bee houses and extra bug hotels were sold at the plant sale.



natives for sale

Native plants are important to our ecosystem. JMgers studied, collected, stored, and planted native seeds for the 2023 Master Gardener Plant Sale. With 20 native varieties for sale, we were busy all day informing buyers about natives, how to grow them and their benefit to our environment. Our mantra for native plants was “Sleep, Creep and Leap.” In year one, native plants show little growth (sleep) as their root systems are busy underground. Year two they begin to show more growth (creep), but it is year three that native plants truly Leap, often flowering for the first time. Some perennials, house plants and bee hotels were also on sale.

JMger Haley Apley and her family worked hard to help set up and be on hand for the sale. Haley was a great promoter of the JMG program and we hope to see these new faces next fall. Haley was a great salesperson, we had very little left at the end of the day, exceeding our sales goal.



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

MARCH 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 23

PROGRAM:

Member Karen Less presented "Plants of the Cherokees."

BUSINESS MEETING:

Called to Order by President Dixie Seaton at 7:16 pm.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes for the March Membership Meeting as printed in the April Newsletter were approved without revision by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report for March as printed in the April Newsletter was accepted without revision and so was filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANT SALE: Chair Tammie Browning reported that 18 vendors will participate in the Plant Sale, including two food vendors and a coffee vendor. Setup will start at noon on Friday, April 21. Also on Friday, the Tennessee State Plant Inspector will inspect plants between 5:00 and 5:30 PM. All plants must be labeled. Tammie also noted that the rest rooms beneath the Fairgrounds bleachers are not working due to ongoing water line repairs; however, the rest rooms in the red exhibit barn are available.

GREENHOUSE: Dixie stated that the plants for the Plant Sale appear to be insect free this year but are smaller due to a lack of sunny days. Volunteers are needed this Thursday (April 20th) to label plants starting at 9 AM.

DEMO GARDEN: Reporting for Diane McCullen, who was out of town, Dixie stated that the next workday for the garden will be May 8, which will be preparation for the annual Farm Days event.

JMGs: Melanie Hill asked if anyone could provide an umbrella base for use during the JMG activities in the Demo Garden every Wednesday at 9 AM during July. She also reported that a single day camp for the JMGs will be held Thursday, May 18th, from 9 AM to 1 PM. The camp will focus on frontier cooking.

SENIOR CENTER: Lois Worthington, reporting for Glenna Julian, reminded members that this Wednesday, April 19, is a workday. Focus is on the upcoming plant sale at the Center to be held Saturday, April 29th.

TOMATO SEED PROJECT: Patsy Farmer stated that the project was successfully completed after several years of cancellation due to Covid. She thanked all the volunteers.

NEWSLETTER: Reporting for Teresa Rae, Dixie reminded members that the deadline for contributions to the May newsletter is May 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

SPEAKERS BUREAU AND MG

PROJECTS: Dixie reminded the members that volunteers and topics for the SCAMGA Speakers Bureau need to be listed with Andrew Hennigh, our Member-at-Large.

Also **proposed MG projects** need to be submitted to Andrew as well before being proposed to the membership.

NEXT PROGRAM/MEETING: Member Melanie Hill will present a program on lavender at the May 15th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Parsons
Secretary





hot news
from the
greenhouse

SOLD OUT

Except for a few small herbs and coleus, which will be available later this season, the Greenhouse is done for the plant sale event! We sold every plant we put out for sale at the follow-up clearance sale last Saturday. Fantastic!!

It was a great season of growing, with the typical unique variations we have each year. This year no bugs! But also very slow growth. Cool, cloudy weather? Greenhouse not so open

to the open air? We'll look at the data and keep notes for next year, of course.

Goes without saying that it takes a team to operate the greenhouse for three months to get our plants ready for sale. Each one that helps with planting, watering, watching, selling, cleaning - each and every one is valued on this team! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Next year I hope we have one or two that want to learn more about the overall operations and function of the greenhouse itself. The more knowledge we gain and share the better.

AND if you have a fall project or want to show it off please let us and Matt know. We want to use this valuable asset all through the year.

Dixie Seaton
Greenhouse Coordinator

demo 
garden news

It's time to plant! If you have adopted a garden please get it planted up. The irrigation is on, which will make taking care of the gardens much easier.

We have another work day planned for May and 2 for June. Please plan on attending one or all!!!

Dates remaining are :

May 16th at 9:00 AM
(Scheduled Work Day)

June 2 at 9:00 AM
(Tidy up for Firewise Tours)

June 20 at 9:00 AM
(Scheduled Work Day)

The irrigation has been turned on. I have some work to do on it next week but please leave the water on. If you need to use the hose just turn it on and off with the copper spigot.

See you in the garden,
Diane McCullen



Glenna and several other MGs working hard at the Senior Center



Photo credit: Lois Worthington

treasury report

Sevier Co. Area Master Gardener Assoc. | April 2023

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association April Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 03/31/23		5129.45				
Added approved items	0.00	964.60	(964.60)	0.00	314.00	964.60	(650.60)
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	43.59	(43.59)	1000.00	0.00	138.28	861.72
Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	855.00	0.00	855.00
Greenhouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Plant sale	230.00	23.32	206.68	1200.00	445.00	409.98	1235.02
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	57.00	(57.00)	540.00	0.00	204.00	336.00
Tomato seed project	0.00	52.60	(52.60)	750.00	0.00	76.49	673.51
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	230.00	176.51	4218.34	4080.00	1614.00	1793.35	3900.65
MG account balance	as of 04/30/23		4795.25				

MG Financial Report submitted by John Oakberg.

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

\$25 per MG;
\$15 for add'l MG spouse

**According to the bylaws, the
deadline for paying dues is April 30**

Jennifer Bacon
Henry Barse
Linda Barse
Tammie Browning
Andy Bush
Pat Butler
Natleene Cassel
Lois Cooper
Joan Falsone
Patsy Farmer
Rebecca Felty
Bonnie Gathergood
Sarah Gibson
Steve Greenwell
Kathy Hammer
Andrew Hennigh
Melanie Hill
Glenna Julian
Guane Julian
Kathleen Lear
Paul Lear
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, APRIL 2023

	3/31/2023 Balance Forward	Totals Remaining 4/30
Knoxville Funds	1525.88	1487.88
Sevierville Funds	474.72	111.65
Donation		+14.00
Total	1992.37	1613.53
EDUCATION:	Spent	Totals
Education -beyond the classroom		250.00
Field Trips		250.00
Summer Programs		202.13
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION:		
Leaf and Vine Supplies		
Buds Club Supplies		64.62
SUPPLIES-OTHER:		72.22
Fall Kick Off		50
Plant Sale	34.96	34.25
Garden	50.00	118.54
OTHER:		
Fair Sponsorship	60	0
Fair Ad	120	0
Storage	38	0
JMG Leader Training		
Budget TOTAL:	302.96	1041.76
Funds Not Budgeted	Snacks 21.41 Umbrellas 76.70	557.77
Income	Donation	+14.00
TOTAL FUNDS		1613.53

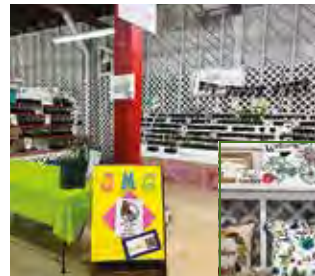
Note: March ending budget changed by \$8.23. A receipt for that amount was not turned in, but it has been added it to the spent totals. Melanie removed it this month.

JMG Financial Report submitted by Melanie Hill.



thank you for your help

To all of you who helped with the plant sale, I would like to say thank you! No matter how big or small you feel your part was...it takes every one of you. You are so very appreciated, and your efforts are not unnoticed. Because of you, I think we had an amazing sale. Talking with y'all and our vendors, it appears everyone did very well! Our vendors were so happy when they left out Saturday afternoon. We look forward to sharing those totals with you at the May meeting. Again, if you did anything to help, thank you.



Tammie Browning
Flower & Garden Show & Sale Chair





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

MG Clothing Orders

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Sev Co Fair

VACANT

Tomato Seed Project

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Wilderness Wildlife Week

STEVE GREENWELL | 9catsfarm@gmail.com | 865.556.3636



Mint & Egyptian Walking Onions

Photo credit: Karen Less