

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

OCTOBER 2023



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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On the cover: Monarch caterpillars at the demo gardens. Photo credit: Diane McCullen



october meeting info

“keeping your garden tools in good condition”

– or –

“zen and the art of tool maintenance”

(apologies to Robert M. Pirsig)

For the October program, John Oakberg will present the ‘what, why and how’ concerning safety and maintaining your garden and yard tools. The program covers motorized as well as manual tools. He will bring along some tools to share and for demonstration.

For motorized tools, there really is more beyond just reading the manual (which everyone should do) not only concerning safety but hints and good practices that will result in machines lasting longer, working better and being safer.

From an early age, John and his brother Frank were fascinated by mechanical things, especially one-cylinder gas engines. They were always tearing apart motors, repairing (or destroying) them and just looking inside to see how they worked. Later, John worked as a small engine mechanic for several years to help pay for college and learned a lot more about keeping lawn mowers running and in good condition. There really are things they don’t mention in the manuals!

Gas powered motors are very much different from those when John started working on them and the more complicated maintenance that used to be required every few years is rarely necessary anymore. What is needed now can pretty much be done by anyone and will result in better safety and more reliable equipment. Little or no mechanical/electrical experience – or confidence – is necessary. OK, at least be sure to read the manual!

With the advent of effective battery powered garden tools, many of the hints for gas powered implements also apply to those that use batteries. No matter the power source, the use and maintenance are surprisingly similar.

Bring any specific questions about your own power tools or ask for advice if considering purchasing something new.

Monday, October 16, 2023
6:00 pm

opportunities



volunteer

Demo Garden Workday, Tuesday, October 17, 10am.

My People Senior Activity Center garden work days, Wednesday, October 18 & Saturday, November 4, 9 am.

Save the Date:

2024 TEMG Intern Training evening class begins in March 2024.

meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, October 16, 6:00 pm.

Annual SCAMGA Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, Monday, December 4, 6:00 pm, Sevierville Golf Club.



educational

Friday Office Hours in Horticulture, Remaining bonus session on November 10, 10am. [Register here to receive reminders](#). See the entire playlist [HERE!](#)

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

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

Welcome Home Series, extension office, Mondays in October, 4 - 5:30 pm. Free to SCAMGs.

Camping in the Old Style, October 14. Cradle of Forestry, 11250 Pisgah Hwy. Pisgah Forest, NC. 10 am to 5 pm. Free entry with paid admission to Cradle. Let Matt know if interested.

2024 TEMG Intern Training evening class beginning in March. More details coming soon.

Save the Date:

2024 Organic Growers School (north of Asheville), March 8-10, 2024

From Matthew: volunteer hours seem to be behind this year. If you have not input all your volunteer hours that you have done, please input them. If you need help, please reach out to Matt. Here is the website: <https://temg.tennessee.edu/>.

budget requests are needed soon!

It is already Fall and time for planning SCAMGA finances for 2024. If you are responsible for a program that needs funding, please provide an estimate of expected expenses and/or income to the treasurer, John Oakberg, **by the November meeting.**

The following projects are currently listed in the budget and some may have no expenses or income, but it is possible, so they are included as well.

- County Fair MG
- Demo garden
- Greenhouse
- Plant sale
- Scrapbook
- Senior Center
- Tomato seed project
- Virtual meetings
- Wilderness Wildlife Week

Contact John if you need information on last years amounts and of course, if you have them available already, he is ready for them.



October is the preferred time to plant ornamental kale, Swiss chard, and pansies. These plants are lovely additions to the fall and winter landscape. Plus, they are edible. Look for the winterbor and Russian kales as they are more reliable in cold weather than the kales known commonly as "flowering cabbage."

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letter from the president



Looking forward...

Fall has officially “fell”! And this slight 10 degree drop in temps is already having an impact on our leaf colors. I’m a fall baby, absolutely my favorite time of year!

It also means our big events as an organization are behind us. We can regroup, assess things, and make our notes for this coming year. As a MG that has done almost every job on the board and had the privilege of being president twice, I decree that we have had an exceptional year! Especially since we have spent a couple years just trying to recoup and get beyond the COVID losses. We have an enthusiastic, talented new MG class of interns that will be getting badges at our December event, and we look forward to mentoring and allowing them to fully engage in our projects!

Speaking of which, our current VP Diane McCullen will be stepping up into the president’s position. She is already organizing her new board, since some of us are done with our current term. If one of you would like to fill her secretary position (it’s a recording secretary

job, doing minutes of meetings), she’ll have a full board and we won’t need to form a nominating committee. Otherwise, please be open to serving in that position. Nominations for the 2024 SCAMGA Board will be documented in the November newsletter and at that meeting those candidates will be presented. Any other active MG is also welcome to be presented then, and the election will be held, with the installation at the December meeting.

Which means, our project and committee chairmen need to start looking at their budget needs for 2024. Those need to be turned in to the new board the first of January, as that budget proposal is submitted at the January meeting.

One more important item you’ll need to attend to before the October meeting. Please read the revision of the SCAMGA Bylaws, the last edition emailed is Sept 10, 2023. It’s mostly “cleaning up” of wording or clarifying process that we have now had experience with for a while, but there are a couple of larger changes in finances and the board. John Oakberg (with

the Board’s input and Linda’s editing!) has done a great job with the revision, thinking through processes. We are confident it is ready for acceptance at this meeting. If you see any issues, please email John NOW!

See you at the October 16th meeting to learn about taking care of those gardening tools. Important for us to know.

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President

For the past several years we have been privileged to have had beautiful MG newsletters sent to us, put together by our friend and master gardener editor Teresa Rae. Teresa is having to step down from the position and take a break, as life often dictates to us all. We cannot express enough our gratitude for the hours of work each month putting such an informative, organized and again beautiful newsletter as hers. She also has helped on many occasions with other printing and publishing needs, and her knowledge and talent will be missed. Thank you, Teresa!

Heartfelt!

scamga speakers bureau

We all have our areas of gardening expertise that we hope 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).



demo garden news

As we put the garden to rest for the year, I am eagerly looking forward to the additions we are working on for next year. We will have some big changes happening which I hope will create new excitement and interest in the teaching patch.

Our next work day is Tuesday, October 17th at 10:00 am. We will begin the transformation of the pollinator garden. We will need to pull out the old border and replace it to create more gardening space. The 2024 interns will plan and plant this space next spring.

Please look over the Demo Garden Wish List included in the newsletter. If you have any of these items to donate please let Diane know.

See you in the gardens,

Diane McCullen
VP, Demo Garden Chair



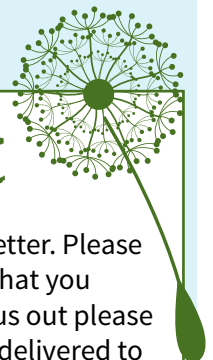
demo garden wish list

This Wish List will be published each month in the newsletter. Please look over this list and see if you have any of these items that you would consider donating to the gardens. If you can help us out please let Diane know and we can set up arrangements to get it delivered to the gardens if you can not deliver it yourself. THANKS!!!!

NEEDED:

Large Rocks
12" x 8' Boards
Wooden Rocking Chair
Bricks

Metal Corrugated Roofing
Large Cardboard Boxes
Stepping Stones





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

AUGUST 21, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 23

PROGRAM

Members Leo and Linda Lubke, “Creating and Growing in Hypertufa Containers.”

CALL TO ORDER:

The business meeting was called to order at 7:25 PM by President Dixie Seaton.

SECRETARY REPORT

The minutes of the August meeting were accepted without change by voice vote.

TREASURER’S REPORT

John Oakberg reported that all bills for the County Fair have now been accounted for. The Treasurer’s Reports was received without change.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNTY FAIR: Diane McCullen presented a celebration cake in honor of those members who volunteered during the County Fair. She reported 848 visitors to the Demo Garden during the Fair and 67 signups for information about Master Gardener classes. She recommended that we handle the Fair the same way next year—unstaffed information desk inside the Exhibition Hall and fully staffed

team in the Demo Garden. She also announced the next workday—Tuesday, September 19, at 9 AM.

JMGs: Melanie Hill reported that JMG currently has 17 children and 3 helpers participating in its programs and has recently developed an advisory council consisting of 2 parents, 2 JMGs, and Melanie. The next field trip will be to Sugarlands. Also the program recently received a grant of \$1,500 from Sevier County to fund its programs. The group plans on concentrating on native plants again next year for the County Fair, thanks to the interest and sales at the 2023 Fair.

SENIOR CENTER: Glenna Julian stated that the greenhouse has now been cleaned up for the year. There is still some monardia (bee balm) to be planted. The next workday is Wednesday, September 20.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Andrew Hennigh reported that there have been no requests for speakers.

There were no other committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS

BYLAW REVISIONS: John Oakberg reported that he has worked on revising and updating the SCAMGA bylaws, which are now 3 years old. The revisions will be sent to the membership this week, meeting the requirement for 21 days’ notice. Members should review and comment on the revisions, if they wish, so that the changes can be voted on at the October 16th meeting. Revisions were needed to eliminate conflicts with the SCAMGA constitution and with the latest MG Guidebook. A few revisions were also needed to make the bylaws clearer and more practical. Revisions include:

- Adding the JMG Coordinator to the SCAMGA Board since the position is now in charge of an ongoing SCAMGA function, not just a temporary project.
- Updating the meeting date to allow the Board to set a new date when the third Monday of the month is not possible.
- Allowing the Board to approve expenditures up to \$300, while requiring membership approval for larger amounts.
- Moving the annual audit to March



voting on bylaws changes at the next meeting!

to allow time for the organization's financial records to be properly updated, especially due to delays in information from UT Accounting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Diane McCullen reported that the SCAMGA Christmas Party will be held at the Sevierville Golf Club (same location as last year) on December 4 at 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$33.50 per person.

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORT: Matthew Anderson reported that he will conduct a "Welcome Home" series for new gardeners similar to the MG classes. The series sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 4:30 all through October. The sessions will consist of a Zoom presentation by a topic expert followed by a hands-on project. The cost will be \$30.

Matthew also stated that the **2024 MG classes** will be conducted in the evenings, starting in March, and continuing for 6 weeks. Again, a subject expert will present a topic via Zoom, which the students will watch at home before coming to the classroom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew announced that MGs can sign up now for a field trip to the

Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, NC. The trip is planned for Saturday, October 14th. Interested MGs should contact Matt.

The deadline for the October SCAMGA newsletter is October 1st.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- October—John Oakberg, "Cool Tools for Gardening."
- November—Donna Stinnett, "History of the Thanksgiving Meal."

Next Meeting: October 16th at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment: 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Parsons
Secretary

At the September meeting, the proposed changes to the bylaws were presented. The new version has been sent to the membership recently and a vote on the changes will be held on October 16.

The Board and the Mathew have approved the changes, and there have been no additional comments received since the September meeting.

The following list summarizes the main proposed changes. At the same time, several minor editorial changes have been made.

- Article VII (E) – Defining the JMG Coordinator duties;
- Article VIII (B) – Simplifying setting meeting dates;
- Article IX (B) – Adding the JMG Coordinator to the Board;
- Article X (C) – Clarifying that the Board will set dues annually;
- Article X (E, F, G, H) Clarifying how the Board and membership authorize extrabudgetary expenses and ensuring all such decisions are communicated to the membership;
- Article X(I) – Changing the timing of the annual SCAMGA audit to correspond with the UT accounting system.

Approval of the changes requires a 2/3 vote at the general meeting.

Have a great day,

John Oakberg
Treasurer

treasury reports

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association August Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 07/31/23 5939.70						
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	361.76	964.60	(602.84)
County Fair decoration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair MG	0.00	58.02	(58.02)	250.00	0.00	107.77	(107.77)
December dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Demo garden	0.00	131.70	(131.70)	1000.00	0.00	762.78	(762.78)
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	0.00
Plant sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	1200.00	3458.67	1218.41	2240.26
Scrapbook	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	489.00	(489.00)
Tomato seed project	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	266.44	(266.44)
Virtual meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wilderness Wildlife Week	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals as of 08/31/23	0.00	246.72	5692.98	4080.00	4675.43	3809.00	866.43

MG Financial Report submitted by John Oakberg.



Junior Master Gardeners August Financial Report

	Totals Remaining 7/31	Expenditures August	Totals Remaining 8/31
Knoxville Funds	1562.54		1562.54
Sevierville Funds	79.12		28.82
Total	1641.66		1591.36
EDUCATION:			
Education -beyond the classroom	104.75		104.75
Field Trips	250.00		250.
Summer Programs	21.19		21.19
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION			
Leaf and Vine Supplies	48.9		48.9
Buds Club Supplies	56.5	10.94	45.56
SUPPLIES-OTHER:			
Fall Kick Off	50		50.
			-33.24
Plant Sale	-33.24		
Garden	32.85		32.85
OTHER:			
Fair Sponsorship	0		0
Fair Ad	0		0
Storage	-38.00		-38.
JMG Leader Training	0		0
Budget TOTAL:	492.95	10.94	482.01
Funds Not Budgeted	1148.71	39.36	1109.35
TOTAL FUNDS	1641.66		1591.36

If you have questions about this report please see me directly. Thank you.

JMG Financial Report submitted by Melanie Hill.

busy september with jmg



JMG has been busy with the start of our fall session- "Into the Woods," and with two outreach programs with Kingdom Culture homeschool group and the

Seymour library. Lois Worthington and Glenna Julian helped us start two of our programs out with teaching kids about the importance of butterflies. The kids were fascinated with the variety of butterflies we have in our area and especially the caterpillar and chrysalis examples Lois and Glenna shared. Participants at the Seymour library were able to see how monarch butterflies are tagged, and who wouldn't love Lois and Glenna in their monarch garb! Thanks, Karen Hall for introducing them.



We continued our study of the Smoky Mountains with learning about the many ecosystems that make up our area. This included learning about the food chain and the plants and animals that are part of it. Even though we are a gardening



group for kids, it is also important that they understand the environment that they live in. Renee Thrap, Cathy Hammer and Teri O'Lear helped the kids out with creating miniature ecosystems. JMgers will continue learning this fall about the Smoky mountains as we explore the water/soil, plants and animals that make up this diverse biome and its ecosystems.

Melanie Hill
JMG Chair

photo credit: JMG mom, Derika May



HO HO HO!

It's time to sign up for the Christmas Party! The party will be held at the Sevierville Golf Club on Monday, December 4th at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$33.50 per person. We will also have the Center Piece Exchange Game. If you wish to participate in this activity you will need to bring a center piece to the party.

I will need to know if you are planning on attending by the October 16th meeting. You will need to pay by the November 20th meeting. Please email me at LDMCCULLEN@sbcglobal.net with your RSVP. (If you signed up at the meeting you do not need to respond to this email.)

I hope to see you all at the party!

Diane McCullen
Vice President



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Wilderness Wildlife Week
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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.

*"I'm so glad I live
in a world where
there are Octobers."*

L.M. Montgomery,
Anne of Green Gables

