

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

SEPTEMBER 2023



Straw Bale Garden

No space? No problem! Straw bale gardening is a great way to grow vegetables and flowers in a small space. It's perfect for people who don't have a yard or a garden. Straw bale gardening is a great way to grow vegetables and flowers in a small space. It's perfect for people who don't have a yard or a garden.



Perennials

Perennials are plants that live for more than two years. They are a great way to add color and interest to your garden. They are also a great way to save money because you only have to buy them once. Perennials are a great way to add color and interest to your garden. They are also a great way to save money because you only have to buy them once.



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On the cover: A beautiful photo of the fair-ready demonstration garden. Photo credit: Dixie Seaton

september meeting info

Monday, September 18, 2023, 6:00 pm

creating and growing in hypertufa containers

presented by *Lee & Linda Lubke*

This fast-paced one-hour presentation will begin with the history of hypertufa (man-made rock) garden containers. A short history will show the beginning of trough planters, and then will move to the steps



The hypertufa pictured is “fresh off the press” as Linda took it at the International Master Gardener Conference that we just returned from in Kansas City! One of their county MGs made this and it was for sale in their store!

in creating them. The media (mixes), form types, drainage and cautions will be illustrated in a visual presentation and with real objects. Typical soilless mixes, plants and mulches will also be discussed.



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Dixie and Tom hard at work at the Fair!

opportunities



volunteer

Demo Garden Workday, Tuesday, September 19, 9 am.

My People Senior Activity Center garden work days, Wednesday, September 20, Saturday, October 7, Wednesday, October 18. 9 am.

2024 TEMG Intern Training, Date TBA.

meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, September 18, 6:00 pm (board meeting TBA).

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

SAVE the DATE!
Annual SCAMGA Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, Monday, December 4, 6:00 pm.

educational

Friday Office Hours in Horticulture, September 15 and a 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!](#)

Eastern Regional Tennessee Master Gardener Conference, September 8-9, 2023, Hamilton County. See schedule on back cover of newsletter. [Register HERE.](#)

Hypertufa Workshop, Saturday, September 23, 10am, Demo Garden.

Tennessee Fall Garden Series, Mondays October 2-30.

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, Date TBA.

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/>.



coming soon!

This new publication is designed to cover the foundation of gardening in Tennessee and connect new homeowners or new residents with all the great content and resources they need to get growing and connect with Extension!



Into The Woods

Junior Master Gardeners
Fall Kickoff
Meet and Greet

Wednesday, September 13, 2023
4:00 -5:00
UT- Sevier Co Extension Office.
Free Program For kids!

Website QR Code



letter from the president



Our hours are important!

It's county fair time! It's looking for that cooler fall weather-so we can clean-up-our-summer-garden time. It's workshop time! September and October bring us so many opportunities for classes and travel, its hard to choose!

Teresa lists some of the opportunities in our newsletter each month. UT Gardens, local nurseries, our online EMG classes, historical venues hosting old-timey gardening events, Knoxville Arboretum, plant societies giving public shows, rangers in the parks giving guided hikes - -the list is endless! We hope you pick up some interesting extra education hours jumping into learning from other experts, as well as taking advantage of those given here through our own SCAMGA and Agent Matt's community classes.

A huge "Thank You!!" to everyone that helped the week

of the Sevier County Fair giving tours and answering questions in our Teaching Patch and greenhouse. And another HUGE "Thanks!" to those that showed up in the garden and exhibit hall to help Diane and Karen get those areas ready to show off. We indeed are putting our best foot forward! AND YES – a GIANT THANK YOU to Diane and Karen for leading those two important and big jobs for our club outreach and publicity! Well done, Gals!

There will be more volunteer hours with community classes and workshops given in the Demo Garden this fall. Keep your eye on your email as Matt advertises those.

AND then do not get behind in recording your education and volunteer hours! Its so easy to click in on your phone or laptop to the EMG site and keep current with hours. Right now, I'm sitting with my calendar trying to interpret MG events and

enter the hours. Yes, I'm trying to practice what I preach – but am still a bit behind. Remember all hours for the year need to be recorded sometime mid-November (estimating hours on those last few events.) More on that as we get there.

If anyone attends the Eastern Region Master Gardener Conference in Chattanooga on Sept 8-9, please let me or Diane know so we can be sure to include your report at our next meeting. I hope some of you can at least run down early and take in the classes Saturday the 9th, if not both days. Not that far from here, and they have great speakers lined up.

See you at the September 18th meeting to learn about hypertufa! SO much fun!

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President

hypertufa workshop: september 23



Our September meeting will cover all things Hypertufa. On Saturday, September 23rd we are having a workshop in the gardens to create our own Hypertufa containers. You will have the opportunity to make two Hypertufa pots. One is yours to keep and one will be sold at the plant sale in our Master Gardener Store.

The cost of the workshop will be \$10.00. This is to cover the cost of the materials. You will also need to bring a few items with you to the workshop. You will need water proof gloves to handle the concrete mixture, two containers to make the pots in, and a cork. Everything else will be supplied. Please email me at ldmccullen@sbcglobal.net to sign up for this workshop.

Diane McCullen
Demo Garden Chair

demo garden news



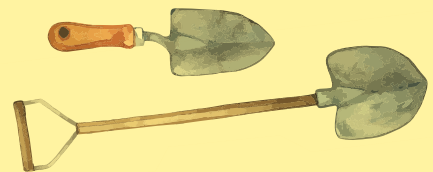
I want to send a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who helped get the gardens ready for the fair this year. I am hoping to have lots of visitors and to make lots of gardening connections. This is our time to shine!!

As I announced in the last monthly meeting, we are going to make some big changes to the garden. We can not continue to maintain all of the “mulched” areas. After 10 years of mulching, the walkways have become very fertile grounds for all weeds. We are going to expand the garden areas, make some semi-permanent walkways to try to eliminate any empty mulched areas. At the meeting I handed out map of how the gardens look now and what our vision is of the future. Please note that these gardens are the Master Gardener Gardens and we would love to have any suggestions about the changes from any Master Gardener. Several of you have already approached me with some very good ideas. It would help if you would email me your suggestions so I don't forget them.

We are hoping to find some grant money to help with this project. I will send out more information as we begin the transformation.

Our Gardens were built with lots of love and care by many Master Gardeners but gardens should be fluid things that change as our world changes. We need to make and use our gardens to fit the needs of today's society. Hopefully, with a little planning and a little work we can achieve this goal.

See you in the gardens,
Diane McCullen
Demo Garden Chair





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

AUGUST 21, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 22

PROGRAM & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

“Teaching Patch (Demo Garden) Birthday Party—Ten Years” presented by Dixie Seaton.

CALL TO ORDER:

6:55 PM

SECRETARY REPORT

Minutes of the July 17, 2023, meeting were approved by voice vote without revision.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer John Oakberg pointed out that the August newsletter contained the June report and that the July report will not be available until next month, again due to the reporting delays from UT Accounting. Even then, there may be some omissions in reporting, he stated. For example, fans purchased last February for the greenhouse just now appeared on the UT report. Nevertheless, the June report was accepted without change.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COUNTY FAIR: Karen Hall reported that her committee has now painted a walkway in the Exhibit Hall leading to the Demo Garden. The committee still needs some large decorative pots and yard art to use in the Demo Garden —

deadline this Wednesday AM. Also, the County maintenance crew will be rebuilding fairgrounds’ entrance sign, and afterward that will also need decorating. Since Patsy Farmer is unable to volunteer right now because she suffered a broken leg during a fall at home, volunteers are still needed for this work.

JMGs: Melanie Hill reported that she has had 18 JMGs working on floral arrangements for the Fair.

SENIOR CENTER: Glenna Julian reported that the next workday will be Saturday, August 26.

OLD BUSINESS

Diane McCullen reported that Leo and Linda Lubke will present a program on Hypertufa Pots at the September monthly meeting. A workshop to make the Hypertufa Pots will be given on Saturday, September 23rd at 10:00 AM. The workshop will be at the extension office garden. Participants will need to pay \$10.00 for the cost of supplies and bring gloves, two plastic containers, and a cork.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Anderson announced a **free webinar on fall gardening** that will be conducted on Wednesday, August 23, at 6:00 PM.

Leo Lubke reported on the **International MG Conference**, hosted this year in Kansas City, MO, by a local MG club. Next year’s conference will once again be virtual. Leo proposed to do a detailed report on the 2023 conference for a future SCAMGA program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dixie announced two events: The **Eastern Regional MG Conference** will be held in Chattanooga, September 8-9.

The Fall Garden Festival will be held in Crossville on Tuesday, August 29. Admission to this event is free to the public.

Matt Anderson announced that he is planning a **“Welcome Home” program** for people new to gardening. It will run every Monday in October and be similar to the MG training. The cost will be \$30.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Parsons
Secretary

jmg summer showcase

Our JMG Summer has been so busy and productive! The kids put in a lot of work on garden craft projects based on what they learned during our Mornings in the Garden. When we learned about soil composition, we used pebbles to create pebble art.

We also looked at how a rain barrel with a rain chain can help collect water to be used for watering the garden. This led to our garden craft: making rain chains. While learning about recycling in the garden, we used plastic water bottles to create planters. We also learned some basic rules in flower arranging before everyone created a dried flower arrangement from plants that can be found in our own yards!

During the fair, we asked members of the public to vote on their favorite crafts which were on display in the greenhouse in the Demo Garden. This also gave us many opportunities to share what we do in the Junior Master Gardener program.



Melanie Hill
JMG Chair



goldenrod: star of the pollinator show *Diane McCullen*

If you want to support pollinators but just can't plant an entire garden devoted to them consider just one, the superstar pollinator plant- Goldenrod.

Goldenrod (*solidago*) is native to Eastern Tennessee and is one of the best pollinator plants for insects in the fall. According to the National Wildlife Federation, Goldenrod attracts 90 species of butterflies and moths who use it as a host plant for their caterpillars. Goldenrod also attracts an extensive list of other insects such as beetles, beneficial wasps, native and European honeybees, leaf hoppers, midge and fly species.

If attracting all those insects isn't enough for you, Goldenrod seed heads are a favorite for finches, sparrows, towhees, and pine siskins. Clumps of Goldenrod also provides a respite to small animals hiding from predators.



It has been rumored that Goldenrod aggravates allergies. This is not true because the pollen of the Goldenrod is sticky and does not travel through the air.

Planting Goldenrod can be a great addition to your garden or landscape. It is a vibrant and attractive perennial plant that produces beautiful yellow flowers. It thrives in full sunlight but can tolerate partial shade. The soil should be well-draining and moderately fertile. Seeds should be sown in the late fall or early spring. Scatter the seeds and lightly press them into the soil but do not cover the seeds as they require light to germinate. Water gently to settle the soil around the seeds. Once the seeds sprout, keep the plants consistently moist until it is established. Cut back the plant in early spring to promote healthy growth, so why not plant some Goldenrod and let the wildlife at your home enjoy it. You'll be glad you did.



treasury reports

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association July Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 06/30/23 5689.70						
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	49.75	(49.75)	250.00	0.00	49.75	(49.75)
December dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Demo garden	0.00	95.78	(95.78)	1000.00	0.00	631.08	(631.08)
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	0.00	0.00	540.00	0.00	375.00	(375.00)
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 07/31/23	0.00	145.53	5544.17	4080.00	4675.43	3505.28	1170.15

MG Financial Report submitted by John Oakberg.



Junior Master Gardeners July Financial Report

	Totals Remaining 6/30	July Expense/Income	Totals Remaining 7/31
Knoxville Funds	1562.54	0	1562.54
Sevierville Funds	457.77	378.65	79.12
Total	2020.31	378.65	1641.66
EDUCATION:	Totals		Totals
Education -beyond the classroom	104.75	0	104.75
Field Trips	250.00	0	250.00
Summer Programs	233.57	214.87	18.7
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION			
Leaf and Vine Supplies	48.9		48.9
Buds Club Supplies	56.5		56.5
SUPPLIES-OTHER:			
Fall Kick Off	50	0	50
Plant Sale	-11.84	21.40	-33.24
Garden	54.64	21.79	32.85
OTHER:			
			0
Fair Sponsorship	0	0	
Fair Ad	0	0	0
Storage	-38.00	0	-38.
JMG Leader Training	0	0	0
Budget TOTAL:	748.52	258.06	490.46
Funds Not Budgeted	1271.79	120.59	1151.20
TOTAL FUNDS	2020.31	378.65	1641.66

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

JMG Financial Report submitted by Melanie Hill.

scamga proposed bylaws revision

After a little less than three years of using our current bylaws, the need for clarification and updates has been noted, which can be expected for a completely new set of bylaws. The Board has approved the proposed changes and the bylaws are now being sent to the membership with the Newsletter. A vote on the changes will be at the September or October monthly meeting, depending on input received.

In addition to several minor editing changes, the main ones are:

- **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.

Included in the e-mail sending this September newsletter are the proposed bylaws, with the proposed modifications indicated using 'track changes'. John Oakberg will review these changes at the September meeting and all comments/questions are welcome.

John Oakberg
Secretary

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).





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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.

Sevier County Fair 2023

A R E C A P I N P H O T O S



The 2023 Fair was a huge success! We had over 500 people come through the gardens. We were able to engage with most of them and we answered many, many gardening questions. I believe our gardens were one of the highlights of the fair this year!

I want to thank everyone who helped prepare the gardens, decorate the exhibit hall, and conduct the engaging tours. The energy and hours that it takes to accomplish this did not go unnoticed and together we created an amazing gardening experience for our community.

Diane McCullen
Demo Garden Chair

