

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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On the cover: Mexican Petunia blooms hang on even as November days cool. Photo credit: Teresa Rae

November Meeting Info change... it takes a village

Everything changes, but when cultures collide it happens much faster. Join us to learn about the plants we use today and how they have changed over time as well as how we use them to celebrate. Research and compilation of information for this program was a concerted effort by Glenna Julian, Lois Cooper, Nat Cassel, Lois Worthington, and Donna Stinnett. Presentation by Donna Stinnett.



**Monday, November 20, 2023
6:00 pm**

UT EXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

TSU COOPERATIVE
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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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

opportunities



volunteer

No Demo Garden workday in November. See meeting opportunity >

My People Senior Activity Center garden work days, Wednesday, November 15th, and Saturday, December 2nd, 9 am.

My People Senior Activity Center Gardens Christmas for the Birds, Wednesday, December 20th.

Save the Date:

2024 TEMG Intern Training evening class begins in March 2024.



meetings & events

Demo Garden Planning/Information Meeting, Tuesday, November 14. 3:30 pm at the extension office.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 20, 6:00 pm.

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

Board Meeting, Monday, January 22, 1:00 pm.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, January 22, 6:00 pm.

NOTICE!
Week change
because of
holiday

educational

Forest Farming Office Hours Winter 2023/2024, Fridays, December 8th, January 19th, February 16th, 12:00-1:30 PM. Details at appalachianforestfarmers.org/office-hours. Also see back cover of newsletter.

2024 TEMG Intern Training evening class beginning in March. See ad on page 2 for more info.

Friday Office Hours in Horticulture, See the entire playlist [HERE!](#)

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

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

Save the Date:

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



REMINDER: Enter all your volunteer and CEU hours before November 17th:
<https://temg.tennessee.edu/>

christmas party reminder

Don't forget your Christmas Party money is due to Debbie at the Extension Office by November 20th. You can also pay at the next monthly meeting. The party will be a catered dinner at the Sevierville Golf Club on Dec 4th. We will begin at 6:00 pm. The address is 1444 Old Knoxville

Highway, Sevierville, TN 37876. As a reminder, Shadrach's Christmas Wonderland has moved to the Soaky Mountain parking lot, so plan ahead to allow plenty of drive time.

Be sure and bring a centerpiece for our exchange game!

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letter from the president

Grateful for Holidays

This newsletter is the last one for the year, covering both November and December club activities. As physical gardening ends our planning for next year already begins!

But not before we pause to be grateful. As I wind down my term as president, I want to focus on our blessings and gratitude for all those that have helped us through the year.

Personally, I have been blessed with a great Board this year! As I write my last President's Note I want to shout out a BIG THANK YOU to:

Carl as he kept us all informed and on the same page with his meeting minutes.

Andrew, as a new member, was brave enough to jump in as your club's member-at-large and see how we operate behind the scenes.

John took on a separate big project, as well as the challenge of being treasurer, and did the needed updates to our club bylaws. No small task, and it was done well.

And Diane! - got her feet wet as the VP, lining up our great programming, and keeping the demo garden planning and work moving forward. She's ready to jump into the president's position and will have my full support! And because of her networking with our



members and interns while working in the garden, she came to the October meeting with volunteers ready to fill out her board for 2024. (See the article on elections included.) She transferred in from another very active MG club, and she's got lots of ideas from her experience there to energize our projects. Thank you so much, Diane, for your willingness to serve!

And, as always, there are all our other MGs that just show up and do what needs to be done. In the Greenhouse with me in the spring, in the Demo Garden with Diane, with the JMG kids with Melanie, helping with 4H or FCE when asked, doing clean up, newsletters, carpools, on and on... The club thrives because of you, and I'm grateful for your energy and help!

Don't forget the Holiday Awards Banquet is Monday, December 4, starting 6:00 at the Sevierville Golf Course Clubhouse. Reservations should have already been made and payment is due at this November meeting. I'm looking forward to another fun round of Centerpiece Stealing!

Don't forget your hours need to be updated online NOW! You are allowed to estimate hours moving forward to the end of this year. (Be aware that when you enter hours with a future date they may not show up after you enter them until that date, but will be in the yearly log.) Matt needs these hours

entered as he works on the year-end report and awards.

ALSO Committee and Project chairmen – John needs your budget requests by Dec 1, so the new Board has time to get the new budget prepared for the January 2024 meeting. Dream about what can be done this next year to enhance all our teaching opportunities!

See you at the November 20th meeting to learn from our own MG Donna Stinnett about historic Thanksgiving foods. I always learn a lot when Ms. Donna teaches!

SCAMGA Nominations for 2024 Board

Because of the willingness of our members to step up and serve our club, we have a full slate of officers to present at the November meeting. Those being presented are:

President – Diane McCullen

Vice President – Andrew Hennigh

Secretary – Monica Scaccianoce

Treasurer – John Oakberg

Member-at-large – Linda Dominguez

Any other member in good standing can be nominated from the floor and, if willing, run for any office.

Elections will be held at the November 20th meeting. The newly elected board serves from January 1 – December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your service, however you serve.

Dixie Seaton
SCAMGA President

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

Large Cardboard Boxes

Wooden Rocking Chair

Stepping Stones

Bricks

Metal Corrugated Roofing

12" x 8' Boards

PLANNING / INFORMATIONAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 14TH, 3:30 PM
EXTENSION OFFICE

demo garden news



Andrew Hennigh found this caterpillar (right) on the Passion Fruit Vine in our Demo Garden. It will become the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly (above left)



We had an amazing work day in October. We were able to start the backyard / patio area. The ground cover was put into the ground and we are hoping it will help control those pesky weeds around the gazebo. We have begun placing the new borders for the medicinal garden and the pollinator garden. Once the borders are in place we will move a few plants and put the beds to rest for the winter. Thanks so much to everyone who came and helped.

Please read the Demo Garden wish list and let me know if you would be willing to donate any of those items.

I am also still in need of someone to come to the gardens with a compressor and blow out the water lines for the winter. If you can possibly do this please let me know.

We will not have a scheduled in the garden work day in November or December. However we will have a planning / organizational meeting about the Demo Gardens on **Tuesday, November 14th at 3:30 pm**. If you want to know and be a part of the planning for our gardens in 2024 please plan on attending this meeting.

I want to thank everyone for an extremely successful Demo Garden year. We have had over 1000 visitors come through the garden this year! This has given us lots of opportunities to educate adults and children on the benefits of sustainable gardening. I hope that everyone is extremely proud of our group and how we are making this world just a little bit better by sharing our knowledge with others!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Diane McCullen
VP, Demo Garden Chair





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

OCTOBER 16, 2023

ATTENDANCE: 27

PROGRAM

John Oakberg, Winterizing Garden Tools.

CALL TO ORDER:

The business meeting was called to order by President Dixie Seaton at 7:05 PM.

SECRETARY REPORT

The minutes of the September 18, 2023, were approved by unanimous voice vote without change.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report for September was accepted by unanimous voice vote. John Oakberg reported that for the first time this year the UT and local accounts balanced perfectly. Dixie reminded the committee heads that their 2024 budget requests are due by November 1st.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPEAKER'S BUREAU: No activity.

JMGs: Melanie Hill reported that on October 4 the JMGs made a field trip to Sugarlands for a soil and water quality workshop. Also, in our greenhouse the JMGs will be planting native plants in January for the 2024 SCAMGA Plant Sale.

DEMO GARDEN: Diane McCullen requested assistance with blowing out the irrigation lines; an air compressor is needed. She also stated that the pollinator garden will be expanded and room made for the planned medicinal herb garden.

GREENHOUSE: Karen Hall reported that this year we are attempting to get a head start on the plant sale by growing plants all during the winter months. She also stated that more potting soil is needed.

PLANT SALE: Dixie stated that a volunteer is needed to be the Plant Sale Chair for 2024. Karen Hall and Shauna Bayless volunteered to be co-chairs.

SENIOR CENTER: Glenna Julian reported that Matt Anderson will be presenting a program on succulents at the Senior Center on November 8 at 2 PM. Also, Christmas for the Birds workshop for making bird feeders from pine cones will be conducted on Wednesday, December 20th.

OTHER COMMITTEES: There were no new committee reports for the Tomato Seed Project or Wilderness Wildlife Week.

OLD BUSINESS

BY-LAWS: John Oakberg reported that he has completed revision of the SCAMGA By-Laws and satisfied the distribution and reporting requirements so that voting on them is now possible. Dixie called for a vote and the revised By-Laws were accepted by unanimous voice vote.

PROGRAMS: Diane McCullen reported that Donna Stinnett and Lois Cooper will present the November program. The topic is still to be determined.

NEWSLETTER: Diane then introduced her sister-in-law Mandy McCullen, who has relocated to the area and volunteered to take over the newsletter from Teresa Rae, who has to be relieved of this duty. Mandy will also coordinate other publicity for SCAMGA events, such as the Plant Sale.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Diane reported that the cost of this year's Christmas Party will be \$33.50 per person. The deadline for payment is November 20, the date of our next meeting. Payments can be made at the Extension Office.

OPEN OFFICER POSITIONS FOR 2024: Dixie asked for volunteers to stand for election for the Secretary's position at our next meeting. Monica Scaccianoce volunteered. Additional nominations for all positions can be made at the



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).



November 20 meeting. Thus the slate of officers is as follows:

- President:** Diane McCullen
- VP:** Andrew Hennigh
- Secretary:** Monica Scaccianoce
- Treasurer:** John Oakberg
- Member at Large:** Linda Dominguez
- JMG Coordinator:** Melanie Hill (Not an elected office)

ZOOM MEETINGS: Diane asked members for a volunteer to coordinate Zoom meetings for next year. Our intention is to have Zoom available in addition to the live meetings as Roane County currently does.

COUNTY AGENT'S REPORT

The field trip to the Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, NC, took place on October 14.

The "Welcome Home" series of classes is being conducted on Mondays for people who are returning to gardening. The cost is \$30, but Master Gardeners can attend at no charge.

The 2024 MG Intern Classes will be held for 6 weeks, starting in March. Final details will be announced in the SCAMGA newsletter.

Matt informed the membership that there will be a meeting soon with County Fairgrounds manager Dennis Snyder, the Sevier County Fair Director, Adam Hopkins, Matt, and Dixie to clarify expectations for our MG group concerning the fair property going forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Teresa Rae announced that November 1st is the deadline for the November-December combined newsletter.

Melanie Hill requested donations of artificial greenery for use by the JMGs for their Christmas project.

ADJOURNMENT

8:10 PM

NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 20

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Parsons
Secretary



treasury reports

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association September Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 08/31/23 5939.70						
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	368.26	964.60	(596.34)
County Fair decoration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair MG	0.00	92.64	(92.64)	250.00	0.00	200.41	(200.41)
December dinner	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	434.50	0.00	434.50
Demo garden	0.00	84.00	(84.00)	1000.00	0.00	846.78	(846.78)
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	546.00	(546.00)
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 09/30/23	0.00	233.64	5706.06	4080.00	5116.43	4042.64	1073.79

MG Financial Report submitted by John Oakberg.



Junior Master Gardeners September Financial Report

	Totals Remaining 8/31	Expenditures September	Totals Remaining 9/30
Knoxville Funds	1562.54		1562.54
Sevierville Funds	28.82		1245.13
Total	1591.36		2807.67
EDUCATION:			
Education -beyond the classroom	104.75	58.67	46.08
Field Trips	250.		250
Summer Programs	21.19		21.19
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION			
Leaf and Vine Supplies	48.9	41.41	7.49
Buds Club Supplies	45.56	66.43	-20.87
SUPPLIES-OTHER:			
Fall Kick Off	50.		23.08
Plant Sale	-33.24		-33.24
Garden	32.85		32.85
OTHER:			
Fair Sponsorship	0		0
Fair Ad	0		0
Storage	-38.		-38.
JMG Leader Training	0		0
Budget TOTAL:	482.01	193.43	288.58
Funds Not Budgeted	1109.35	121.26	988.09
Deposits	0	1531.00	1531.00
TOTAL FUNDS	1591.36	1216.31	2807.67

JMG Financial Report submitted by Melanie Hill.

into the woods with jmg

Learning about the environment that we live in is important, especially for those who will be the future caretakers of the Smokies. Junior Master Gardeners spent a day learning how to assess the quality of both streams and soil at the NPS Sugarlands visitor center. From trawling the streams for aquatic life to assess water quality to examining bugs in the soil, JMgers had an exciting learning experience.

Continuing our study of the Smoky Mountains, JMgers studied different ways to identify trees by looking at the leaves and bark of a sampling from the 100 native tree species that make this area their home. They also learned how to dry press leaves to use in making botanical art.

Melanie Hill
JMG Chair



tool tips:

FOLLOW-UP TO THE OCTOBER PROGRAM ON KEEPING YOUR GARDEN TOOLS IN GOOD CONDITION

I really enjoyed the great questions and comments during the program at the October meeting. As always, there are more things that could be presented and maybe next year when machines are about to come out of hibernation, we could revisit the subject.

There are two topics I want to mention again about storing gas-powered machines and running them dry before putting them away for the winter: using gas additives and where not to run a gas engine.

If you use a gas additive, it is all right to let the gas remain in the engine tank over the winter, although running the tank dry is the preferred practice. If you do not use an additive, empty the gas tank and run the engine dry. If you leave gas in the tank (with additive), be sure to store the machine away from any heat source – treat it like you are storing a container full of gasoline – because you are!

As for running an engine dry, be sure to do it outdoors, well away from open windows or doors, and do not

run a combustion engine inside a garage, even with the doors open. This applies to generators as well, which can see use anytime during the year.

I also remembered other places that have small engine repair shops: the Co-op and Blalock Hardware, although I am not sure if they service only what they sell. They both have been a good parts source for me, and will order if they do not have it in stock. Parts are also available online.

Regardless of the engine type (electric or gas) be sure to clean the tool and lubricate it before storage. Spray WD-40 or wipe a light coat of oil on the areas most prone to rust during storage, such as the underside of mower decks and on blades. If your gas engine is due for an oil change, wait until spring for that maintenance. For battery powered tools, be sure to read the manual about battery storage and charging (if needed or not) during the off season.

As more thoughts about tools come to mind, I'll try to write something up for future Newsletters. In the meantime, if you all have any questions, I will do my best to answer them – send me an e-mail or call.

John Oakberg



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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.

FOREST FARMING OFFICE HOURS WINTER 2023/2024

JOIN NC STATE EXTENSION AND FRIENDS OF THE ABFFC FOR Q&A, UPDATES, AND CONVERSATION ABOUT FOREST FARMING. ALL REGIONS AND EXPERIENCE LEVELS ARE WELCOME!

REGISTER VIA ZOOM ON WEBSITE OR EMAIL FOR QUESTIONS AND LINK MARGARET.BLOOMQUIST@NCSTATE.EDU

FRIDAYS FROM 12 – 1:30PM EST

DEC 8TH

JAN 19TH

FEB 16TH

APPALACHIANFORESTFARMERS.ORG/OFFICE-HOURS



NC STATE

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