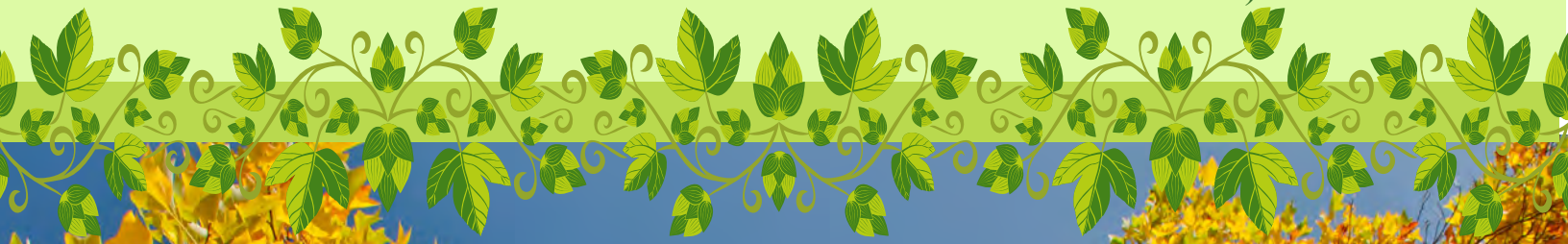


roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

JANUARY 2024



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE




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On the cover: Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera). Did you know the Tulip Poplar is the official Tennessee State Tree. They produce large flowers that attract pollinator species and are the tallest growing tree in the eastern us forest. They are one of several varieties of trees available for Tennessee Tree Day.



January Meeting Info

Monday, January 22, 2024 6:00 PM

John Oakberg, SCAMGA treasurer, will be reviewing and leading the budget discussion for 2024. Please bring your favorite finger food to share.

2024 Master Gardener Intern Training

Cost: \$175

MARCH 5 -APRIL 9TH
6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

752 Old Knoxville Hwy
Sevierville, TN
865-453-3695
mande125@utk.edu

Call or email if interested





Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth 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.

Our program grows when you invite friends and family to our events. Be sure and invite them to our next Master Gardener Intern Training.



opportunities

volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center
garden work days, Saturday, January
6th, Wednesday, January 17th, 9 am.

Wilderness Wildlife Week, January
22-25, Ramsey Hotel and Convention
Center. Contact Steve Greenwell
(9catsfarm@gmail.com) for details.

Master Gardener Intern Class
Tuesdays, March 5th through April
9th, 6:00 pm.

2024 SCAMGA Plant Sale Tentative
Dates: Cool Weather Crops, Saturday,
March 16th; Main Sale, Saturday,
April 20th. More details coming soon.

Demo Garden Work Day - January 23,
2024 1:00PM

meetings & events

Board Meeting, Wednesday, January
10th, 3:00 pm

Monthly Meeting, Monday, January
22nd (4th Monday), 6:00 pm.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, February
19th, 6:00 pm.

Master Gardener Intern Class
Tuesdays, March 5th through April
9th, 6:00 pm

2024 SCAMGA Plant Sale Tentative
Dates:
Cool Weather Crops, Saturday, March
16th;
Main Sale, Saturday, April 20th. More
details coming soon.

educational

Forest Farming Office Hours Winter
2024, Fridays, January 19th, Febru-
ary 16th, 12:00-1:30 PM. Details
at [appalachianforestfarmers.org/of-
fice-hours](http://appalachianforestfarmers.org/office-hours)

Gardening Webinars on Zoom Tues-
days, January 16 and 30, February
13, and 27, 6:00 pm. Contact Matt for
details.

Wilderness Wildlife Week, January
22-24, Ramsey Hotel and Conven-
tion Center. Details at [https://ww-
w.pigeonforge.com/event/wilder-
ness-wildlife-week/](https://www.pigeonforge.com/event/wilderness-wildlife-week/).

2024 TEMG Intern Training Master
Gardener Intern Class Tuesdays,
March 5th through April 9th, 6:00
pm.

Save the Date! 2024 Organic
Growers School Spring Conference,
March 8th-10th. For updates, go
to [https://share.hsforms.com/1xQ-
jm39_gR6S_WZEjBfidQgcney9](https://share.hsforms.com/1xQ-jm39_gR6S_WZEjBfidQgcney9).



Visit: www.tectn.org/tennesseetreeday.html for more information and to reserve trees.

letter from the president

The Road to the Presidency

I knew the first time I met a Master Gardener that I wanted to be one. I wanted to be the person who could help others garden successfully. I wanted to be the person that others would come to with questions about their sick plants and I could heal them. I wanted to be the person that could answer the plant questions at Trivia Night! But what I didn't understand was the journey (and work) that this wish would take me on.

When I retired from teaching in 2017 I immediately applied for the Master Gardener Classes in Fort Bend County. The classes began a few months later and I began to realize how very little I actually knew about growing plants. I also began to realize how much fun my fellow gardeners were. 24 people came to that class to become better gardeners, as I did, but found out that along with an amazing amount of gardening know-how those classes also came with the perk of making new friends.. The classes made us step outside of our comfort zone and create relationships with people we never would have met otherwise. These are friendships that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

With our move to Tennessee in 2020 I continued my quest to understand the ficked world of sustainable gardening. I continued to take classes, read books, and attend lectures in hopes of one day being the person that I desperately wanted to be when I began this adventure. I realize now that being the one that knows all the answers is impossible but being the one that knows where to find those answers is doable. I realize now that some plants die just because and some



plants are basically impossible to kill. I realize now how small I am in the scheme of it all but that in my little world I can make a difference. I can make a difference to the environment and I can make a difference in a few people's lives.

Gardening is more than soil and plants and weather, it is a way of life. My hope for this year is that we continue our gardening journey together. I hope that we all remember why we began this journey and what is truly important through it all. Let's all learn a little, laugh a little, and love a lot. So here's to a year of adventures and friends!

Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President



FYI: Diane's favorite tree is the Oak. One of sixteen trees available for Tennessee Tree Days.

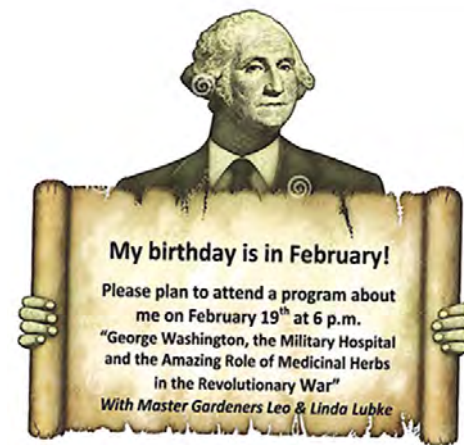


We have a new email address.
seviermg@gmail.com

Our other email account was hacked and is no longer in use. Please use our new address effective immediately.



We need a team of three to form a **Hospitality Committee** for this year. The team would plan the yearly Christmas/Award party and be a friendly welcoming face to newcomers to our events. If you are interested, talk with Diane.





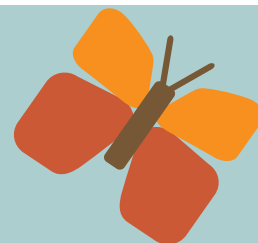
demo garden wish list



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:**
- Wooden Rocking Chair**
- Bench**
- Stepping Stones**
- Metal Corrugated Roofing**

demo garden news



The renovations to the Demo Garden have begun thanks to a lot of hard working people. We have created several new and larger gardens. We have enlarged the Pollinator Garden, JMG Native Garden, and Medicinal Herb Garden. We have added an area for meadow plants and ground covers. We have also been able to place wood chips on approximately half of our walkways. We are hoping that with these improvements and a few others to come that our weeding will be less and our gardening will be more!

We will have a work day on **January 23rd at 1:00 pm**. We need to clean out the rain garden and firewire garden and I'm sure we will have a few weeds to pull! Please put this date on your calendar.

Thank you to John and Linda Oakberg for donating the large rocks needed for the demo garden and thanks to Karen Less for donating the fire pit ring.

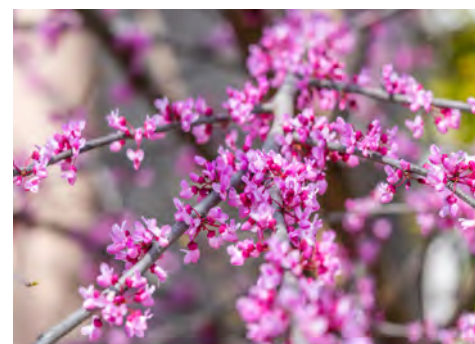
See you in the garden,
Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President



American Beauty Berry
Callicarpa americana



American Plum
Prunus americana



Eastern Redbud
Cercis canadensis

These three trees are also available for Tennessee Tree Day.



SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDNERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE

24

PROGRAM

“Change. . . It Takes a Village” presented by Donna Stinnett, Lois Worthington, and Glenna Julian.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by President Dixie Seaton at 7:08 PM.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The October minutes were accepted without revision as printed in the SCAMGA newsletter.

TREASURER’S REPORT

John Oakberg reported that all accounts are in order. However, UT has changed the manner in which reimbursements for SCAMGA expenses incurred by members will be handled. Checks can no longer be issued by the Extension Office; rather they must be processed through UT Accounting and therefore require more time before the reimbursement check is issued. This can be avoided to a large degree by making use of the Extension Office credit card. The Treasurer’s November report was accepted without change.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SPEAKERS’ BUREAU

No report.

JUNIOR MASTER GARDNERS

Melanie Hill reported that there are now 18 JMGs, only 2 of which attend public school. On November 11th the JMGs will deliver Christmas wreaths and Christmas cards they have made to the Sevierville Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home on Catlett Road. In January the JMGs will begin planting the long-lead time native plants in the Demo Garden greenhouse.

DEMO GARDEN

Diane McCullen reported that landscaping rock donated by John Oakberg has been placed against the wall at the back of the Extension Office and that pine mulch will be used next season along the pathways in the garden to suppress weeds.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenna Julian invited members to participate in the preparation of pinecone bird feeders scheduled for Wednesday, December 20th at 10:00 AM. She also stated that a tea garden will be added this spring and that seeds for spring planting are being ordered now.

TOMATO SEED PROJECT

Patsy Farmer stated that she has ordered the grow pods for next year’s project.

PLANT SALE

Karen Hall reported that the meeting with the County and Fair Committee regarding SCAMGA’s use of the Exhibit Hall for the Plant Sale did not take place. SCAMGA use and maintenance of the Butterfly House is

also undetermined. Consequently, the sale venue is now being planned for the Demo Garden-Extension Office only. The date sale of cool weather crops is tentatively set for Saturday, March 16th with the main sale occurring on Saturday, April 27th. A schedule of presentations on gardening will also be planned. Glenna then stated that the Senior Center will probably hold its plant sale a week earlier than the SCAMGA sale, making it fall on April 20th.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW OFFICERS

Nominations for the 2024 slate of officers was published in the meeting agenda. President Dixie Seaton asked if there are other nominations for any of the offices. Hearing none, she declared the officers elected by acclamation as follows: President Diane McCullen, Vice President Andrew Hennigh, Secretary Monica Scaccianoce, Treasurer John Oakberg, Member-at-Large Linda Douglas.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Diane McCullen reminded members that the deadline for payment is tonight. Attendees should bring one centerpiece per family for the centerpiece swap.

MG INTERN CLASSES FOR 2024

Matt Anderson announced that these classes will be held starting on Tuesday, March 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, and will continue for 6 weeks.

meeting minutes continued

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melanie Hill requested volunteers to serve as judges for the 4-H Speech Competition to be held at Sevier County Courthouse on December 19th at 5:45 PM. Five additional judges are needed.

Matt Anderson reminded members to enter their service hours tonight.

Leo Lubke announced that he and Linda will present a program at the February 19th Membership Meeting on "George Washington, the Military Hospital and the Amazing Role of Medicinal Herbs in the Revolutionary War."

Diane McCullen announced that Mandy Hyde will be replacing Teresa Rae as the SCAMGA newsletter editor. Items for publication should be sent to her at mandy.hyde@earthlink.net.

ADJOURNMENT

7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Parsons

23 November 2023

**Please note the Treasury
report will be emailed
this month.**

Ironweed: Giant of the Plant World

While Autumn is often associated with the stunning fall colors of red, orange, and yellow there is another color that begins the fall season. This color is so stunning and rich that it trumpets in Autumn with all the glory it deserves. This spectacular shade of purple draws your eyes to the tall plant that often looms over all other flora in the field. This flower belongs to the Giant Ironweed.

The Giant Ironweed can grow between 3 and 7 feet tall. These lofty giants of the plant world can bear hundreds of flowers in compact heads that can measure up to 6 inches wide. The plant's long thin leaves add to its attractiveness. These spectacular blossoms begin appearing in mid-summer and can be seen going into fall.

As a pollinator plant, the Ironweed's beautiful blossoms attract a host of butterflies. The list includes monarchs, American and painted ladies, eastern tiger swallowtails, skippers and sulfurs. It is also a great source of pollen and nectar for a large number of other valuable native pollinators such as bee flies, cuckoo wasps, miners, long-tongued bees, and bumblebees.

Ironweed doesn't require a lot of care. Too much water and fertilizer will cause their

stems to become flimsy and fall over. It can grow in a number of different types of habitats. While the plant prefers partial sunlight and moist conditions, it can be found in full sun in an open field. You will often find Ironweed growing along streams and woodlands. It can also be found on roadsides, and abandoned lands. While Ironweed can tolerate a variety of soils it does not thrive in heavy clay.

Ironweed has found itself a place in home landscapes that incorporate native plants. In a fall garden the towering height and bright flowers give it the ability to draw attention to the back of a garden. They can be an accent to yellow flowers such as goldenrods and black-eyed Susan.

Ironweed can be established in a number of ways. The seeds can be collected from wild plants and sown directly into the ground. However, germination is low and the seeds require up to 3 months of stratification. You can also divide the roots and replant them elsewhere. The plant can also be grown from cuttings taken in the spring. Recently, native plant nurseries have begun selling ironweed plants. If you buy a plant from a nursery, be sure and inquire about the plant's growth characteristics and cultivation requirements as there are many varieties to choose from.

If you are looking for a native plant that is extraordinarily beautiful, easy to grow, attracts swarms of native pollinators, and doesn't require much care, Ironweed might be the plant for you. So, the next time you are driving down the back roads of Tennessee and you see a plant that towers over the others and displays an amazing array of purple flowers, you most likely have found a colony of Ironweed, enjoy it as it is the prelude to the fall foliage show.





awards the new board



Monica Scaccianoce, Linda Douglas,
Diane McCullen, Melanie Hill, John
Oakburg, Andrew Hennigh

hours of service



100+ Hours of Service

rookie of the year



Linda Douglas

years of service



3 years - Melanie Hill, Renee Thrap
5 years - Patsy Farmer, Teresa Rae
15 years - Dixie Seaton

certified interns



Shauna Bayless, Linda Douglas,
Terrie O'Lear

dub julian award



Lois Worthington



300+ Hours of Service



Senior Activity Center Workers



contacts

Diane McCullen, President
ldmccullen@sbcglobal.net 832.605.5769

Andrew Hennigh, Vice President
arsheffer5@icloud.com 517.614.0642

Monica Scaccianoce, Secretary
monicascaccia@aol.com 954.309.0434

John Oakberg, Treasurer
oakbergjl@bellsouth.net 865.428.6265

Linda Douglas, Member-at-large
4mom2go@gmail.com 865.803.3807

Shauna Bayless, Greenhouse Coordinator
shauna.bayless@gmail.com

Karen hall, Greenhouse Coordinator
borderhall07@yahoo.com 865.851.2922

Adam Hopkins,
Sevier Co. Extension Director
ahopkins@utk.edu 865.453.3695

Matthew Anderson
Sevier Co. Extension Agent Horticulture & 4H
mande125@utk.edu 865.453.3695

seviermg@gmail.com

UT Sevier Co Extension Office
865.453.3695

Christmas Fun

