

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

FEBRUARY 2024

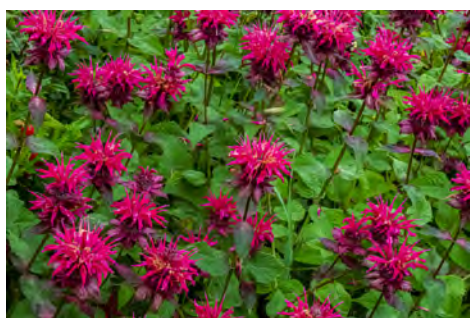


SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



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On the cover: Bee Balm (Monard Didyma).The common name beebalm refers to the use of a resin derived from the plant that may be used for healing and soothing in particularly of bee stings.

February Meeting Info Monday, February 19, 2024 6:00 PM

George Washington, the Military Hospital and the Amazing Role of Medicinal Herbs in the Revolutionary War by Master Gardeners Leo & Linda Lubke

- The PowerPoint presentation will be 50-60 minutes.
- The fast-moving presentation represents a good blend of General George Washington, his first military hospital, historic medicinal herbs AND PATRIOTISM!
- It is hoped that many of the colonial historic herbs will be included in SCAMGA's herb garden as a symbol of our patriotism.

As a special Happy Birthday treat to celebrate George Washington, there will be delicacies that relate directly to Martha and George Washington. You won't want to miss this presentation!

Leo and Linda Lubke reside in Kodak, Tennessee. They are both SCAMGA members – Linda (15 years) and Leo (25 years). They were originally from Western New York, but came to Tennessee in the mid-1960s when Leo was a Park Naturalist at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They returned to New York State to be closer to their families. Linda has advanced college degrees in education (Teacher in Special Education and Educational Administration). Leo, too, has advanced degrees, including an earned Doctorate of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. After 33 years in education (Linda at college and public school levels as a teacher and assistant principal (K-8) and Leo in public schools and at the college/university level), they retired and moved back to “their home” in East Tennessee. Once they returned to Tennessee in 2002, Leo met with Extension Director, Alan Bruhin and presented a case on the benefits of starting a Sevier County Master Gardener group. After many, many visits with Alan, SCAMGA was started in 2004. It is truly rewarding to see what SCAMGA has become!

Leo and Linda are members of many organizations including Rotary, Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Societies of 1812 and library groups, to mention only a few. They enjoy 12 months per year vegetable gardening, their “bird and butterfly” garden and growing a variety of herbs and native plants. Their landscape has earned 12 certifications, including Tennessee Smart Yards. They have given presentations on a wide range of garden and native plant subjects, as well as topics of historical interest, to various groups. Leo was honored to have his article on the importance of native plants published in the Tennessee Conservationist magazine.

They hope you will enjoy learning about “George Washington, the Military Hospital and the Amazing Role of Medicinal Herbs in the Revolutionary War.”



opportunities

volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center
garden work days: Wednesday, February
21st and Saturday, March 2nd, 9 AM.

Demo Garden Work Day: Tuesday,
February 20th, 1 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.

2024 Senior Activity Center Plant Sale:
Saturday, April 27th.

meetings & events

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

Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 12th,
3:00 PM

Monthly Meeting, Monday, March 18th,
6:00 PM.

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

2024 SCAMGA Plant Sale 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, February
16th, 12:00-1:30 PM. Details at
www.appalachianforestfarmers.org

Gardening Webinars on Zoom
Tuesdays, January 16 and 30, February
13, and 27, 6:00 PM. Contact Matt
for details.

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
www.organicgrowersschool.org

additional reading



Visit GrowVeg.com for an interesting article on
the whys and why nots of growing Tansy in your
garden.



The National Wildlife Federation provides tips
on being a wildlife gardner. Learn about the
importance of planting seeds and berries.

letter from the president

Always Learning

As my knowledge of gardening evolves, so does my desire to change my gardens from self-serving plots to areas that enhance our environment. I have begun to think about a bigger picture within my little space. I am now trying to create areas that will sustain all wildlife and not just the bees and butterflies.

Gardening for wildlife is a wonderful and sustainable approach to create a habitat that supports local fauna. Here are some tips to make your garden more wildlife-friendly:

Native Plants: Choose native plants as they provide food and habitat for local wildlife. They are adapted to the local ecosystem and support a variety of insects, birds, and other animals.

Diverse Plantings: Include a variety of plants with different shapes, sizes, and flowering times. This diversity attracts a wide range of insects, which, in turn, attract birds and other wildlife.

Water Sources: Provide a water source like a birdbath or a small pond. This is essential for birds, insects, and other creatures, especially during dry periods.

Shelter: Create spaces for wildlife to take shelter. This could be through dense vegetation, rock piles, or birdhouses. Brush piles can be particularly attractive for small mammals and insects.

Avoid Chemicals: Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides, as they can harm beneficial insects and disrupt the natural balance of your garden ecosystem.

Leave Some Wild Areas: Allow some parts of



your garden to grow wild. This provides hiding places and nesting sites for various wildlife.

Provide Food: In addition to native plants, consider putting out bird feeders with seeds or nectar for birds. Be mindful of the types of food that attract local wildlife.

Butterfly and Bee Gardens: Plant flowers that specifically attract butterflies and bees. These pollinators play a crucial role in the ecosystem.

Composting: Create a composting area. This not only helps recycle kitchen and garden waste but also attracts insects and other decomposers.

Educate Yourself: Learn about the native wildlife in your area and their specific needs. This knowledge will guide your gardening efforts for the benefit of local species.

By adopting these practices, you can create a garden that not only looks beautiful but also contributes positively to the surrounding ecosystem. Start small and be amazed at what you can do.

Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President

january meeting highlights

Who we are and what do we do:

Our mission is to educate our community on sustainable gardening.

Sustainable gardening combines organic gardening practices with resource conservation. Generally, sustainable gardening: is forward-thinking, values ecosystem support, and makes as little negative impact on the earth as possible.

Do No Harm

How do we achieve our goals?

- Plant natives instead of exotics
- Know your soil and know your plants – Right plant, right place
- Remove invasive plants
- If you have created a healthy ecosystem:

Pest will be taken care of by predators. The soil will have enough nutrients to feed your plants and you won't have to water wisely.

My Charge To You

- Encourage people to make their lawn smaller
- Encourage people to plant natives
- Encourage people to plant native trees
- Encourage people to plant gardens that support pollinators
- Encourage people to GARDEN!



demo garden wish list

This Wish List will be published each month in the newletter. 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:
- Small Card Catalog Cabinet for Seeds
 - Wooden Rocking Chair
 - Bench
 - Stepping Stones
 - Metal Corrugated Roofing

demo garden news

*"Winter is a season of recovery and preparation."
--Paul Theroux*

I spend most days in the winter dreaming of how to improve the gardens. My goal is for us to create an outdoor classroom that inspires our community to plant gardens that not only meet their personal needs but enhance the ecosystem that surrounds them. I am very excited to get our new gardens planted and growing!
Demo Garden Workday will be on February 20th at 1:00 pm. I hope to see you there.
Diane

See you in the garden,
Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President



Matthew will need volunteers to help with the hands on portions of the Intern Training. He is finalizing the details. Please reach out to him if you are able to assist.

intern training schedule

Week One	March 05	TEMG Orientation	Chapters 1 & 2
Week Two	March 12	Environmental Stewardship Soils and Cover Crops	Chapters 4,5 & 6
Week Three	March 19	Botany & Propagation Landscape Design & Herbaceous Ornamentals	Chapters 3,7 & 9
Week Four	March 26	Woody Ornamentals & Trees Entomology & IPM	Chapters 8 & 13
Week 5	April 2	Pathology/ Turf & Weeds	Chapters 10,14 & 15
Week 6	April 9	Fruits/ Vegetables/ Pollinators	Chapters 11, 12, & 16



SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDNERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

JANUARY 22, 2024

ATTENDANCE

24

PROGRAM

“Who We Are and What We Do.”
presented by Diane McCullen.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order
by President Diane McCullen at 6:25 PM.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The minutes of the November meeting
were presented in the last newsletter.
Karen Hall motioned to accept the
minutes as written. Johan Oakberg
seconded the motion. The membership
unanimously approved the minutes as
written.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Andrew reported that the program for
February will be “ George Washington the
Military and the Amazing Role of
Medicinal Herbs in the Revolutionary
War. The program will be presented by
Leo and Linda.

EXTENSION AGENT

Matthew reported that the new Master
Gardener Class will begin on Tuesday
March 5th and will be held from 6 PM
till 8 PM for 6 weeks. It will consist of
online videos as well as hands on sessions.
Matthew is also presenting Gardening
webinars on 1/30, 2/13, and 2/27 and he
welcomed all to attend these sessions. He
is also planning a trip to the Biltmore in
May.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIOR MASTER GARDNERS

Matthew Anderson reported that the JMG
programs are being developed by Melanie
Hill and that she is requesting help with the
summer activities in the garden.

DEMO GARDEN

There will be a workday on the February
23rd at 1 PM to help clear the garden and
possibly plant daffodils. She requested
volunteers.

TOMATO SEED PROJECT

Patsy reported that she is ordering supplies
and that she will have the schedule for this
available by March. She asked for volunteers.

GREENHOUSE

Karen reported that 14 flats of herbs were
planted. She is also working on having grow
lights installed. Plans to use the butterfly
house were discussed but these will be placed
on hold until written permission is obtained
from the County.

PLANT SALE

Karen stated that there will be an early sale on
March 16th from 10 AM till 2 PM. She also
reported that work in in progress to showcase
the process of gardening. There will be a
vegetable, herb, and flower sale on April 20th
from 10 AM till 2 PM. The Senior Center is
planning to have their sale on April 27th.
Diane asked for donations of birdhouses, pots
and lightly used garden items for the sale.
Outside vendors will be invited to the sale.
Karen Less stated that QR Codes will be
added to all sale plants to assist with educa-
tion. Andy Bush suggested that if educational

classes are added that they be brief as long
classes did not work out in the past.

NEWSLETTER

Diane requested that all items for the
newsletter be submitted to Ms. Hyde by
February 1st.

OLD BUSINESS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Patsy Farmar and Linda Douglas have
volunteered for this committee. One more
member is still needed.

TECH COMMITTEE

Diane requested volunteers for this commit-
tee to help strategize and implement Zoom
meetings if members still would like to have
this capability.

**NEW BUSINESS
DUES FOR 2024**

A discussion was held about the proposed
dues for 2024. Changing to \$25 per person
and removing the family rate was presented
by John Oakberg. Andy Bush moved that
this change be accepted. Dixie seconded the
motion. All present approved this motion.
Dues are to be paid to Debbie Hurst.

NEW EMAIL

Diane reported that the new email will be
seviermg@gmail.com. This was needed as
the old account was hacked numerous
times.

BOARD MEETINGS

These will be held on the odd months of the
year on the second Tuesday of the month at

meeting minutes continued

3 PM as reported by Diane.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Diane asked for two members at large to meet with John to review the finances from 2023. This will occur in March. John will coordinate the meeting time and place.

STORAGE UNIT

The board decided that this was a costly expenditure and that it was no longer needed. The unit has been cleared out.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John reported that he is working on finalizing the expenditures of 2023. He stated that beginning in 2024 all the accounts will be in one place. The MG and JMG accounts are separate in the UT system. Beginning in 2024 you will only get reimbursed in the form of a check. This process may take up to 30 days. Tax exempt status can only be used when you purchase items with a UT card.

John requested that all members should keep records of their expense. When submitting for reimbursement the budget item name and the members name as well as if the expenses are for MG or JMG need to be included to assist with accurate accounting.

All projects that need funding need board approval. The board can approve expenses up to \$300. Monies greater than this need membership approve.

A draft of the proposed MG budget for 2024 was presented. The budget has deficit spending. The JMG budget was presented. Andy Bush moved that the budgets be approved. John Oakberg seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Monica Scaccianoce DNP, Secretary

tomato seed project

Hey fellow Master Gardeners,

Patsy Farmer here. The Tomato Seed Project that SCAMGA sponsors is coming up soon. For those of you who are not familiar with this project, it is a program where we go into all the Sevier County Public Schools that have Kindergarteners and help them plant their very own tomato seeds.

First, the teacher divides the class into three groups. One group sits at their desk and colors a tomato worksheet that we provide. One group sits on the carpet and listens to one of our Master Gardeners read a book about tomatoes. (Linda Oakberg is a Pro at this!) The last group goes to a table where the Master Gardeners are all set up to help them plant their tomato seeds.

We usually schedule one school per day during the mornings. THIS is such a rewarding

project to participate in and you will not want to miss it!!

I'll have sign-up sheets with dates and times at our February meeting. Anyone who would LOVE to volunteer is welcome to sign-up then. Several of you have already expressed an interest in helping and that is totally awesome. We have already started with the prep work thanks to Collette Manke.

I am so excited about our upcoming Tomato Seed Project and I am looking forward to working with many of you. TEAMWORK divides the task and multiplies the SUCCESS.

Patsy Farmer
Chairman

Tomato Seed Project
865-850-9644





budget info 2024 from the Treasurer

At the January 22, 2024 general meeting, the budget for 2024 was approved. As part of the annual financial process, the Membership also voted to continue the dues at \$25. This applies to all members, even those in the same household. Remember that dues need to be paid by April 30, 2024. Checks should be made to 'UT Extension Sevier County' and given to Debbie Hurst (Administrative Associate), who sits at the desk right as you enter the Extension Building.

On the budget included in the newsletter, the totals spent for 2023 are shown, including the total end of the year amounts in the local and UT accounts. In the event you were unable to attend the January meeting, the following are the 2024 budget highlights:

Some program names have changed;

The storage locker budget is only for one month – we have given it up, saving us \$780 annually (the rental was increased twice in 2023, up to \$65 a month). We only need to pay for January and should be getting a prorated refund for part of the month;

The \$1000 greenhouse/butterfly house budget is \$600 for improvement and maintenance, such as adding grow lamps. The remaining \$400 is for developing the butterfly house for use as a hardening place for plants and for education during the fair. If agreement on taking responsibility for the butterfly house cannot be reached with the Fairgrounds, the \$400 will not be needed. These expenditures are one-time improvements, with future budgets to be less, primarily for maintenance;

The budget shows a shortfall of \$590 and there are sufficient funds in our total UT account to cover that amount;

The total ending UT balance is shown as provisional because the December UT account has not yet been finalized.

In the past, there have been two accounts for our funds, one held locally (limited in amount) and the rest at UT. Beginning in 2024, all funds will be at UT. If you have an expense or income, inform Debbie Hurst at the Extension Office:

Provide the budget item name and your name;

Indicate the amount and if it is income or an expense;

Give her receipts if you need to be reimbursed;

If income, give her cash or check (count the cash with her);

Be sure to designate Master Gardeners or Junior Master Gardeners.

It is important to tell Debbie the correct budget item. For example, if buying soil or seed used in the greenhouse for the Plant Sale, this is a Plant Sale expense and **is not a greenhouse expense!**

For expenses, unless someone at the Extension Office is available to make payment with a UT credit card, you need to pay up front and will be reimbursed by check from UT. Sometimes, the check may take about a month to come through, but it will. Some have taken only a week.

Let me know if you have any specific questions or topics related to the 2024 finances and I will address them at the next meeting.

John Oakberg
Treasurer

The approved budget can be found on the next page.



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

budget 2024

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association 2024 Budget (Approved January 22, 2024)						
Item	2023 Actual Amounts				2024 Budget	
	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance	Income	Expense
Added approved items	0.00	394.50	364.60	29.90	0.00	0.00
County Fair	250.00	0.00	200.41	(200.41)	0.00	100.00
December meeting	0.00	1000.08	921.85	78.23	0.00	100.00
Demo garden	1000.00	150.00	1314.10	(1164.10)	0.00	1000.00
Dues	0.00	930.00	0.00	930.00	900.00	0.00
Greenhouse, butterfly	100.00	0.00	277.83	(277.83)	0.00	1000.00
Plant sale	1200.00	3973.11	942.40	3030.71	3800.00	1500.00
Senior Center	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Storage unit	540.00	0.00	738.47	(738.47)	0.00	65.00
Tomato seed project	750.00	0.00	266.44	(266.44)	0.00	750.00
Virtual meetings	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
Wilderness Wildlife Week	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4H Scholarship	0.00	0.00	600.00	(600.00)	0.00	600.00
Totals	4005.00	6447.69	5626.10	821.59	4700.00	5290.00
Income minus expenses	821.59					(590.00)

Provisional UT amount as of 12/31/2023:

5156.77



december financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association December 2023 Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 11/30/23 6064.12						
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	394.50	964.60	(570.10)
County Fair decoration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair MG	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	200.41	(200.41)
December dinner	304.50	921.85	(617.35)	0.00	1000.08	921.85	78.23
Demo garden	0.00	225.00	(225.00)	1000.00	150.00	1314.10	(1164.10)
Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	930.00	0.00	930.00
Greenhouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	277.83	(277.83)
Plant sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	1200.00	3973.11	942.40	3030.71
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	65.00	(65.00)	540.00	0.00	738.47	(738.47)
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 12/31/23	304.50	1211.85	5156.77	4080.00	6447.69	5626.10	821.59

jr. master gardener december financials

Junior Master Gardeners December Financial Report			
	Totals Remaining 11/30	Expenditures December	Totals Remaining 12/31
Knoxville Funds	1405.68		1316.89
Sevierville Funds	1120.16		1120.62
Total	2526.386.		2437.51
EDUCATION:			
Education -beyond the classroom	21.07		21.07
Field Trips	235.		235.
Summer Programs	21.19		21.19
SUPPLIES-EDUCATION			
Leaf and Vine Supplies	-26.78	36.20	-62.98
Buds Club Supplies	-20.87	21.63	-42.50
SUPPLIES-OTHER:			
Fall Kick Off	23.08		23.08
Plant Sale	-33.24		-33.24
Garden	10.92		10.92
OTHER:			
Fair Sponsorship	0		0
Fair Ad	0		0
Storage	-38.		-38.
JMG Leader Training			
Budget TOTAL:	192.37		134.54
Funds Not Budgeted	2333.93	30.96	2302.97
Deposits			
TOTAL FUNDS	2526.30	88.79	2437.51



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

seviermastergardner@gmail.com

UT Sevier Co Extension Office
865.453.3695

road trip



WEST NORTH CAROLINA HORTICULTURE TOUR

BILTMORE HORTICULTURE TOUR
AND NC ARBORETUM

\$100

May 21st

Call or email to register 865-453-3695/
mande125@utk.edu

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**Sevier County
Master Gardeners**

EARLY SEASON SALE

**March 16, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM**

OVER 30 VARIETIES AVAILABLE

- BABY GREENS (ASSORT. BRASSICA)
- BEETS (DETROIT DARK RED)
- BOK CHOI
- BROCCOLI (WALTHAM)
- BRUSSEL SPROUTS (LONG ISLAND)
- CABBAGE (RED ACRE & EARLY ROUND DUTCH)
- CHIVES
- KALE (DWARF BLUE CURLED AND RED RUSSIAN)
- LETTUCE SALAD BOWLS
- MICROGREENS (MILD MIX)
- OKRA (RED BURGANDY & CLEMSON SPINELESS)
- YARROW
- AND MANY MORE

SPRING SALE

**April 20, 2024
10 AM - 2 PM**

**VEGETABLES, HERBS, FLOWERS, &
NATIVE PLANTS**

- TOMATOES
- BELL PEPPERS
- JALAPENOS
- EGGPLANT
- BASIL
- BEANS
- MARIGOLDS
- CALENDULA
- SUNFLOWERS
- BUSH BEANS
- CUCUMBERS
- AND MANY MORE

Tour Our Demo Garden

Bring Your Questions - Expert Advice from our Master Gardner Team
Proceeds support Master Gardner youth programs, scholarships, and community projects.

Questions?
Email Us

**University of Tennessee Agricultural
Extension-Sevier Co
752 Old Knoxville Hwy, Sevierville
Parking behind the extension office**