

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

MARCH 2024

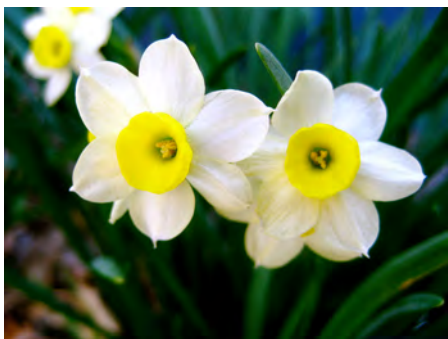


SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



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On the cover: Daffodil (Narcissus) symbolize rebirth, new beginnings, hope, joy, and good luck. Much of this symbolism arises from the fact that daffodils emerge each spring to light up barren landscapes with their cheerful yellow, orange, and white flowers.

March Meeting Info Monday, March 18, 2024 6:00 PM

**Speaker: Joy Grissom - Executive Director
Native Plant Rescue Squad**



Joy Grissom, Director and co-founder, is a Tennessee native with a background in public health advocacy and community education. She is dedicated to the health of the environment and how human engagement and our connection with wildlife is an integral component of our well being.

Joy will discuss how two friends discovered a need to dig up an undervalued natural resource that you can't often find in nurseries. They went from providing native plants at the farmer's market to teaching communities about the importance of biodiversity and ecological health in urban areas where wildlife is displaced. She will go into how they formalized their work in 2016, became a 501c3, and developed programming throughout the region. Joy usually discuss what they have learned, and where they hope to be by next in the future.

She will talk about how they became educators to developers and landowners that couldn't understand why we would want to dig up "a bunch of weeds"

Native Plant Rescue Squad Mission Statement:

"We work with entities such as builders, developers, or landowners to rescue native plants that would otherwise be destroyed during clearing, building or development. The rescued plants are then made available for educational opportunities or restoration projects with the goal of increasing the overall ecological health of our region.

You can learn more about the organization and their work at www.nativeplantrescuesquad.org.



opportunities

volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center
Garden Work Days Wednesday, March
20th, Saturday, April 5th, Wednesday,
April 17th, 9:00 AM.

Demo Garden Work Days, Tuesday,
March 5th 1:00 PM, Tuesday, March
19th Monday, April 8th, 10:00 AM,
Tuesday, April 16th, 10:00 AM.

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

Tree Day Prep, Extension Office, Thurs-
day, March 14th, 9:00 AM.

Tree Day, Extension Office, Friday,
March 15th, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

2024 SCAMGA Plant Sale Cool Weath-
er Crops, Saturday, March 16th, 10:00
AM to 2:00 PM.

2024 SCAMGA Main Plant Sale,
Saturday, April 20th, 10:00 AM to 2:00
PM.

2024 Senior Activity Center Plant Sale,
Saturday, April 27th, 9:00 AM to 12:00
PM.

meetings & events

Board Meeting, Monday, March 18th,
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 Cool Weather
Crops, Saturday, March 16th, 10:00 AM
to 2:00 PM.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, April 15th,
6:00 PM.

2024 SCAMGA Main Plant Sale, Satur-
day, April 20th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

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

SAVE THE DATE! TEMG State Confer-
ence, October 9th through 11th, hosted
by Davidson and Williamson Counties.

educational

Melody's Monday Musings (Greene
County). <https://sites.google.com/utk.edu/mondaymusings/2023-schedule?authuser=0>

Buncombe County (NC) Master
Gardener Video Series, <https://www.buncombemastergardener.org/gardening-videos/>

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

2024 Organic Growers School Spring
Conference, March 8th-10th. For
updates,
<https://www.organicgrowersschool.org/>

TEMG May Fruit and Vegetable Webi-
nar Series, Tuesdays, May 7, 14, 21,
and 28, 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Information
and registration at: <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/may-fruit-and-vegetable-webinar-series/>

Western North Carolina Horticulture
Tour, Tuesday, May 21. Contact Matt
for information.

TEMG First Friday Office Hours in
Horticulture Webinars: June 7, July 12,
August 2, and September 6. 10:00 AM.

Fruits of the Backyard Field Day, Spring
Hill, Tuesday, June 11th.



letter from the president

Resources

When we engage in different works and ideas, we expose ourselves to varying viewpoints, ideals, and interpretations. As we analyze literature, we foster the ability to evaluate information, form opinions, and engage in meaningful conversations. When we raise the question “what if?” we open ourselves up to new and interesting ways to do what we do better.

As I began to compile information about gardening for wildlife for our new intern class, I started thinking that this information might be useful to the whole membership. I hope that the following list of books and websites inspires and informs you.

Books:

Nature’s Best Hope by Doug Tallamy (2019)
This homegrown approach sidesteps the limitations of our isolated national parks and empowers us to all make our planet a better place.

Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife by David Mizejewski
National Wildlife Federation (2019)
This book will teach you how to create a wildlife habitat garden. In doing so, you will be doing your part to restore the ecology of the land on which you live.

Naturalistic Planting Design by Nigel Dunnett (2018)
Nigel Dunnett is a pioneer of the ecological



approach to planting. He creates gardens and public landscapes that team with wildlife.

Websites:

National Wildlife Federation - www.nwf.org

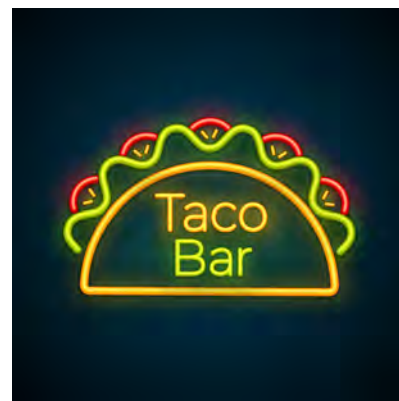
Native Plant Finder – Discover native plants, ranked by the number of butterfly and moth species that use them as host plants for their caterpillars.
<https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/>

Gardening Know How -
<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com>
Every year over 180 million gardening enthusiasts visit our site to find the information and inspiration they need to achieve the garden of their dreams. With over 14,000 articles and more being published every day, our main site is a virtual encyclopedia of gardening information.

The Spruce - <https://www.thespruce.com>
Tend your garden like a pro with help from our expert writers and Master Gardeners. Learn how to do everyday tasks, pick out the best plants, and garden like a pro.

University of Tennessee Extension -
<https://utextension.tennessee.edu>
UT Extension provides Real. Life. Solutions. throughout Tennessee. With an office in each of the state’s ninety-five counties, UT Extension helps Tennesseans to improve their quality of life and solve problems through the application of research and evidenced-based knowledge about agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H youth development, and community development.

If you have a favorite book or website please feel free to share it at our next meeting. Speaking of our next meeting, join us for a taco bar.



Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President



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

Work has been slow throughout February due to lots of rain and very muddy gardens. We have made some progress by finishing the borders of a few of the new garden beds and putting down the wood chips for the walkways. We will be having 2 workdays a month while we get the beds cleaned out and ready for spring.

- March 5th at 1:00 PM – Finish walkways and clean out beds
- March 19th at 11:00 AM – Finish cleaning out beds and prepare beds for new plants
- April 8th at 10:00 AM – Prepare beds and plant
- April 16th at 10:00 AM – Prepare beds and plant

Diane



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 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

21

PROGRAM

Linda and Leo Lubke presented a PowerPoint presentation entitled “George Washington, the Military and the Amazing Role of Medicinal Herbs in the Revolutionary War.” They were dressed in period clothing and provided a snack to all participants. They also provided handouts for the group.

CALL TO ORDER

The business meeting was called to order by President Diane McCullen at 7:11 PM.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The minutes of the January meeting were published in the last newsletter. After review, three corrections were submitted. The minutes were approved unanimously with corrections.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Andrew Hennigh reported that Joy Grissom from Native Plant Rescue Squad will present next month.

TREASURER’S REPORT

John stated that two volunteers are needed to review the budget with him. No one volunteered to assist. He also told the group that dues are \$25 and should be given to Debbie. He reminded everyone to complete the requirement of signing the affidavit when they log in volunteer hours.

EXTENSION AGENT

Matthew reported that ten students have

signed up for the upcoming Master Gardener class. He shared that the current meeting was being broadcast on Zoom and that five people are currently logged into the program. The intent is to broadcast the educational sessions for public participation. He also stated that the cost of buying a camera for the Zoom portion of the meetings will be approximately \$500 or less if the group wants to purchase the equipment. Matthew reported that the Biltmore trip has been scheduled and that the cost is \$100.00. The trip will include a visit to the Biltmore gardens as well as the arboretum.

Grow lights have been installed with timers

PLANT SALE

The Early Sale is scheduled for March 16th from 10:00 – 2:00 PM.

The Annual Sale is scheduled for April 20th from 10:00 – 2:00 PM. There will be room for 15 to 20 vendors at the annual sale. The booth cost will be \$25 for a 10’ x 10’ space. All plants will be labeled with a bar code that will provide information about the plant and the care of the plant. Help will be needed to label the plants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIOR MASTER GARDNERS

Melanie Hill reported that the JMG classes are in progress. She also stated that this group will plant a Native Garden soon.

DEMO GARDEN

There will be a workday on the February 20th and March 5th at 1 PM to spread the wood chips and prepare for Early Plant Sale. Diane requested volunteers.

TOMATO SEED PROJECT

Patsy reported that all schools have been scheduled and that 1160 students will be included in the project. She also stated that she needed additional volunteers.

GREENHOUSE

Karen Hall reported that 60 flats have been planted. She requested help when it is time to transplant these plants. She will let the group know the dates and times that help is needed.

NEWSLETTER

Mandy requested that all articles and information be submitted by March 1st.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenna Julian stated that there were problems with the heater at the Senior Center but this has been repaired. The group will have a workday Wednesday, February 21st to begin planting. A “tea garden” is a possible project for the Senior Center.

OLD BUSINESS

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Patsy Farmer asked for another member to join this committee.

TECH COMMITTEE

Sandy Palmer was introduced to the group. She will be monitoring the Zoom meetings.

NEW EMAIL

The new Email for the group will be – seviermastergardner@gmail.com.



meeting minutes continued

BOARD MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12th at 3:00pm.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

John stated that we need two members to meet with John to go over finances from 2023. This will occur in March. John will coordinate the meeting time and place.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW PROJECT

Karen Hall has proposed a new project for SCAMGA. She would like for SCAMGA to use the Butterfly House for educational and plant sale use. The Fair Association has stated in writing that SCAMGA can use the house as we see fit. The maintenance of the Butterfly House will be SCAMGA's responsibility until the project is terminated. The membership must vote on this project as the budget is set at \$400.00. Andy Bush moved that the project be approved. The group unanimously approved this motion.

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Diane reported that we are planning September in the Garden however it might be October. She also proposed that the group consider a seed swap and a cool weather crop sale.

PLANT SALE TAGS

Diane stated that anyone who is bringing plants to the plant sale needs to let Karen Less know. She is making tags for all the plants with a QR code for planting and care instructions. Karen asked that everyone takes pictures of the seed packet and provide the name of the seeds. She will also need information on plants people are harvesting from their own properties.

COUNTY AND FAIR UPDATE

Karen Hall met with Cyndie from the Fair and Cyndie informed her that fair will be held at the usual site. There are plans to demolish the cattle and poultry barn. There is a five year rebuild plan.

TREE DAY

Matthew stated that trees will be given out on March 15th. He is looking for volunteers on March 14th for bundling the trees for pick up and on the 15th for tree distribution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Scaccianoce, Secretary

junior master gardener



JMG BEGINS ANEW

After the snows of mid January, JMG's spring session started with an exploration of different types of soil and the properties that make up a good soil. The right soil, which may be different depending on what you are

planting, allows roots to quickly develop and spread, which in turn increases the water and nutrient intake necessary for healthy and productive plants. Participants mixed their own succulent soil which they used to propagate Thanksgiving and Easter cacti.

In February, participants learned how to read and gather information from seed packets and how to choose the right seeds for the area they have available. Using strawberry containers, we created mini greenhouses and planted seeds for participants to grow at home. We continued with sowing seeds for our plant sale in April. JMG is focusing on native plants and flowers.

We finished out the month with an investigation into tubers, corms, bulbs and rhizomes. By looking at examples of each, participants learned how to identify each by specific characteristics. They used their new found knowledge to identify and classify samples of each. In March we will focus on Right Plant/Right Place/Right Soil Indoor and Flower Gardening and Arranging.



tool tips

by john oakberg

Tool Tips: Preparation in late winter/early spring. It seems last Fall is not too long ago when most tools entered hibernation, but now as winter is almost past us, we are starting to get those early spring days. With that, machines both electric and gasoline, are about to come out of rest so it is a good time to cover a few points. If you decide to do your own maintenance, that is great. If not, the information here will help ensure that you let the shop know what you want done, and they may suggest you get other things worked on as well.

Step one: Read the owner's manual! I cannot stress this enough. Some manuals have a maintenance schedule in them. If you want to try to do something yourself, there are many videos on YouTube that cover just about anything you wish to attempt. If you do not feel comfortable doing it yourself, get a shop to do it instead of you causing damage.

Regardless of the engine type (electric or gas) be sure to remove any accumulated dust and, following the manual, lubricate the tool (e.g., wheels, control cables). Sharpen any blades or have them sharpened and be sure they are balanced. Sharp blades really make a difference in performance and with electric appliances, the battery charge will last longer. Balancing helps prevent wearing out bearings. Before starting gas engines, disconnect the spark plug(s) and try to start the motor with several pulls on the starter cord or use an electric start for a few seconds. Of course it won't start! But the movement will start some oil flowing into the cylinder(s) to pre-lubricate them after the winter. During the winter, the oil has drained from the cylinders, and starting without some sort of pre-lubrication can cause excessive wear.

If you need to change the oil at the start of the season, start the engine with the old oil and let it run until it is warm. That way, you will get more of the old oil drained before putting in the new. Also with gas engines, there is a big temptation to use the first nice day to do that initial mowing of the grass. If it is 50 degrees F or below, don't mow unless you have the correct oil in the engine. Again, check the manual. Using typical lawnmower oils (SAE-30 weight) at temperatures below 50 degrees F will cause damage in the form of excessive wear. To be on the safe side, wait until it is 60 degrees. Again, check the owner's manual, where there should be a chart for what oils to use in what temperatures. Well-maintained tools, both power driven and manual, last a lot longer!

early plant sale goodies

Available at the March 16th sale.



WALTHAM BROCCOLI

Developed at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's historic research farm, Waltham Field Station, heirloom Waltham 29 broccoli garden seeds have been cultivated to deliver higher yields, grow more uniform vegetable crops, with more repeat harvests.



BRUSSEL SPROUTS LONG ISLAND

This semi-dwarf Brussels sprout has been a standard garden variety since the 1800s. Smaller plants are easier to handle in a small garden. Brussels sprouts are a long season crop and benefit from care and attention several times through the growing season.



BURGANDY OKRA

Very tender and delicious. Beautiful deep red pods and stems contrast nicely with green leaves. Ornamental and tasty! Developed by Clemson University in South Carolina and introduced in 1983.



january financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association							
January Financial Report							
Item	Month Account Summary			Budget Summary to Date			
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budget	Income	Expense	Balance
MG account balance	as of 12/31/23 5156.77						
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
December meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Demo garden	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dues	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Greenhouse, butterfly	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Plant sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	1500.00	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	65.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tomato seed project	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Virtual meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wilderness Wildlife Week	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4H Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals as of 01/31/24	200.00	0.00	5356.77	5290.00	200.00	0.00	200.00



jr. master gardner january financials

**Junior Master Gardeners Financial Report
January 2024**

		Budgeted	Expenditures January	Totals Remaining 1/1/24
Knoxville Funds		1316.89	90.00	1226.89
Sevierville Funds		1120.62		1120.62
Total		2437.51		2347.51
Education				
Leaf and Vine: CS	Consumables	250	37.55	212.45
Curriculum supplies	Lesson supplements	100		100.
Outside the Classroom	Field Trips	150		150.
	Beyond the Classroom	100		100
Summer Programs	Day Camp	250		250
	Mornings in the Garden	200		200
	Summer showcase	100		100
Outreach programs	Supplies	250		250
Orientation				
Fall Kickoff	Supplies	50		50
Garden				
Demo Garden Bed	Supplies	500		500
Plant Sale	Supplies	250		250
Snacks				
Leaf and Vine	Meeting snacks	200		200
Community Service				
Project	Supplies	150	30.96	119.04
Other Expenses		500	21.49	478.51
Budget TOTAL:		3050		2960
Funds Not Budgeted		1387.51		1387.51
Deposits		*(2000.)		*(2000.)
TOTAL FUNDS		4437.51	90.00	4347.51



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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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