

# roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

MAY 2024



SEVIER COUNTY  
**U**EXTENSION  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE





# in this issue

- May Meeting info ..... 2
- Meetings, Events, Educational & Volunteer Opportunities ..... 3
- Letter from the President ..... 4
- Demo Garden Wish List ..... 4
- Demo Garden News..... 4
- Plant Sale Report ..... 5
- April Meeting Minutes ..... 6
- A Glimpse of Nature ..... 7
- Junior Master Gardener ..... 8
- Speakers Bureau..... 8
- March Financials ..... 9
- JMG March Financials ..... 10
- Contacts ..... 11



*On the cover: Sunflowers (Helianthus annuus)  
Did you know the Sunflower was domesticated in the US?*

## May Meeting Info Monday, May 20, 2024 6:00 PM

**Speaker: Joey DeCarmin**  
**The Micro Garden Pigeon Forge**  
**Air Plants and Terrariums**

Joey and his wife started selling terrariums at the Flea Market in Sevierville on weekends. While he had no formal education in gardening, his mother was a horticulturist and a master gardener and the knowledge rubbed of on Joey. He and his wife run two stores selling terrariums and air plants in the Pigeon Forge area.

A Note from Joey:

I will be discussing native mosses I use for terrariums and general terrarium care and will be answering any questions. I will also be bringing airplants and will be discussing their habits , environment and just showing off a few cool varieties and answering questions





# opportunities

## volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center  
Garden Work Days Wednesday, May  
15th, Saturday, June 1st and Wednesday,  
June 19th 9:00 AM.

Demo Garden Work Days, Tuesday, June  
18th, 9:00 AM.

Save the Date!  
JMG Summer Day Camp Monday, June  
24th through Friday, June 28th.

## meetings & events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, May 20th,  
6:00 PM.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, June 17th  
6:00 PM

**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/>

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/>

Garden Talks in the Demo Garden  
Friday May 17th and June 21st, 10 AM  
See Matt for details.

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.

Fall Gardener's Festival, Crossville,  
August 27th.

TEMG 2024 Welcome Home Series,  
October 1, 8, 25, 22, 6:30 PM.

## Farm Days in the Garden

Farm Days 2024 saw over 1000 fourth graders visit the demo garden for a whirlwind tour and five minute lesson on the importance of pollinators and plants they need to thrive. Led by Master Gardener Melanie Hill, students learned about the importance of native plants in our area, how they survive and thrive in our climate and clay soil, and why pollinators need them.

Having learned about invasive species through the 4-H essay contest, students understood the threat to our environment posed by these non-native plants and why it is so important that they know the impact these plants pose to their future





# letter from the president

Gardening offers a wide range of health benefits, both physical and mental. Here are some of them:

**Physical Exercise:** Gardening involves various physical activities such as digging, planting, weeding, and watering, which provide moderate-intensity exercise. This can improve cardiovascular health, muscle strength, and flexibility.

**Stress Reduction:** Spending time in nature and engaging in gardening activities has been shown to reduce stress levels. The peaceful environment and the act of caring for plants can promote relaxation and lower cortisol levels.

**Mood Improvement:** Gardening has been linked to improved mood and reduced symptoms of depression and anxiety. The exposure to sunlight and fresh air, as well as the satisfaction of nurturing plants, can boost mood and increase feelings of well-being.

**Nutrition:** Growing your own fruits, vegetables, and herbs can encourage healthier eating habits. Freshly harvested produce is often more nutritious than store-bought varieties, and having easy access to homegrown foods can promote a diet rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

**Cognitive Benefits:** Gardening stimulates the brain and can improve cognitive function. Planning and problem-solving, as well as learning about different plants and their care requirements, can help keep the mind sharp.

**Immune System Support:** Spending time



outdoors exposes you to sunlight, which boosts vitamin D levels and supports a healthy immune system. Additionally, working with soil exposes you to beneficial microbes that can strengthen the immune system.

**Sense of Accomplishment:** Successfully growing plants and creating a beautiful garden can provide a sense of accomplishment and pride, boosting self-esteem and confidence.

**Social Interaction:** Gardening can be a social activity, whether it's joining a community garden, participating in gardening clubs, or simply sharing tips and produce with neighbors. Social interaction is important for mental health and can reduce feelings of loneliness.

**Connection with Nature:** Gardening fosters a deeper connection with the natural world, which has been shown to promote overall well-being and environmental stewardship. Overall, gardening is a holistic activity that can improve physical health, mental well-being, and quality of life.

*Diane McCullen*  
SCAMGA President

## demo garden news

There will be no scheduled workday in May due to my traveling this month. We will continue with our regular Tuesday workday in June. It will be June 18th at 9:00 am. If you are responsible for a garden please be sure and check on it regularly. The irrigation is on and right now we are watering 3 times a week. We received LOTS of compliments on our gardens during the plant sale. I was so glad we were able to show it off. That was definitely a plus for having the sale at our place! I want to give a big THANK YOU to John Oarberg for giving tours of the garden during the sale!

## 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



# spring 2024 plant sale report

Our Plant Sale went really well with good attendance and lots of plants for sale. We had about 20 Master Gardeners helping on the day including most of our new interns.

A very big thank you for all who turned up to help setup, carry plants and help our customers. The Junior Master Gardeners also had a good selection of native plants available. Thank you Melanie for all your work with our Junior Master Gardeners.

After a cool and rainy start to the day we ended up having good weather. As this was our first year holding the sale at the

Extension Office it was a case of trying to figure out the best way to conduct the sale. We will make some adjustments for next year but on the whole all went well.

We had 7 vendors who bought beautiful plants and provided information to our customers. Hopefully for next year we will have more vendors.

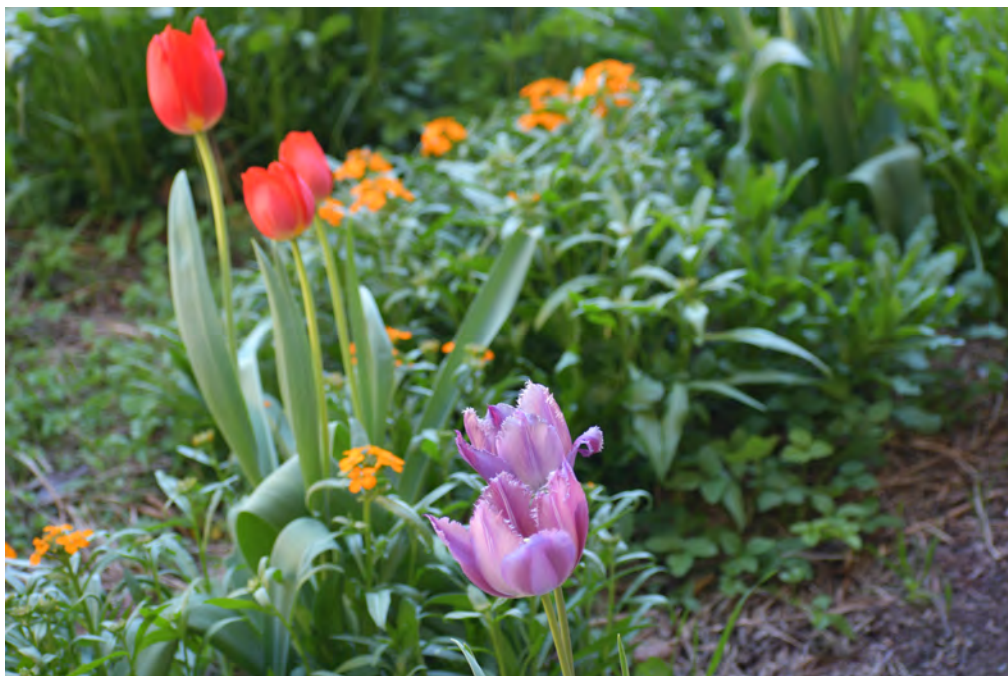
A big thank you to Diane McCullen who organized our garden related yard sale. We had a great array of beautiful things for sale.

On the day we took in a total of **\$2411.75** from sale of plants and the yard sale. Thank you to Matthew Anderson and his son for running our

checkout for the sale. The full budget for the plant sale with all expenses taken out and profit made will be reported at the May meeting.

Thank you to everyone for all your hard work in helping in the greenhouse getting plants ready for the sale, those who bought plants to the sale, and everyone who helped at the sale. It truly was a group effort that can only be accomplished when we all work together.

Karen Hall and Shauna Bayless



**A Touch of Beauty from the Yard of Karen Less.**



**SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDNERS ASSOCIATION**

# meeting minutes

**APRIL 15, 2024**

**PROGRAM**

Andy Bush presented an informative presentation on Container Gardening including how to construct rolling planter dollies.  
5 individuals attended via Zoom.

John Oakberg presented a PowerPoint on “Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure.” He presented an outline of future presentations and encouraged the group to present related topics that interest them.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

The minutes of the March meeting were published in the last newsletter. Without objection the minutes were unanimously approved

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Andrew Hennigh stated that Micro Garden will be presenting next month. The program will include air plants and terrariums.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The February financials were published in the last newsletter. There were no additions or corrections and without objection the financial statement was approved.

**EXTENSION AGENT**

Matthew Anderson reported that nine individuals have signed up for the North Carolina horticultural tour. He stated that the straw bale garden will be planted by the interns.

On April 16th. He will be presenting educational sessions in the Demo Garden on April 26, May 17, and June 21st. These sessions will be open to the public and all present were invited to attend school.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**JUNIOR MASTER GARDNERS**

Melanie Hill stated that all beds are in and that she is planning a planting day on April 17th. She reported that registration for the summer camps has reached maximum attendance. Some topics that will be covered at the camp include pollinators, habitats, flowers, vegetables, and herbs.

**DEMO GARDEN**

Diane McCullen reported that there will be workdays on April 16th at 10 a.m. and May 4th at 9:00 a.m. She asked that everyone not pull the “meadow weeds” as this is an experiment in native planting.

**TOMATO SEED PROJECT**

Patsy Farmer reported that that Northview school will be included in the project this coming Friday. She thanked all who helped with this project.

**GREENHOUSE**

Karen Hall stated that there will be a workday in the Greenhouse to finalize preparations for the plant sale.

**PLANT SALE**

Karen Hall reported that plants will be moved to the butterfly house to help with hardening. The inspector will be there at 8:15

a.m. prior to the sale to check the plants. She asked for help on Thursday at 10 a.m. to help set up and to finish labeling all plants.

Vendors are scheduled to arrive at 6:45 a.m. There will be pop up tents to protect from the sun. Matthew and his son have volunteered to do check out.

**NEWSLETTER**

Please have all articles and information to Mandy by May 1st.

**SENIOR CENTER**

Monica Scaccianoce stated that the senior center sale will take place on April 27th from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. She thanked Karen Less for help with QR codes. The sale will have over 50 varieties of plants.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**PLANT SALE TAGS**

If you are bringing plants to the plant sale be sure and let Karen Less know. She is making tags for all the plants with a QR code for planting and care instructions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dixie Seaton suggested setting up a vendor list for future sales. Creation of a shared drive to store all information was discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Monica Scaccianoce, Secretary





# andrew sheffer plant photos



## ***A Glimpse of Nature***







# junior master gardener in the garden

JMGers have had a busy Spring learning about gardening! In April they became garden landscape designers. Designing a variety of gardens including shade gardens, butterfly gardens and borders and paths, they learned the importance of right plant-right place in an outdoor garden.

Learning about companion planting and square foot gardening, JMGers planted a vegetable patch using square foot garden strategies. The garden and its produce will be used by the JMG summer camps!

Having learned about gardening and best practices, including the best way to pull a weed, JMGers also learned about the various tools used in the garden and their specific uses. They also participated in a tool maintenance workshop where they cleaned and conditioned tools for future use.



## The Speakers Bureau Needs You!

Do you have a wealth of knowledge just waiting to be shared? Are you eager to make a positive impact in your community? Now is your chance to shine!

We're updating our Speakers & Topics list and we want YOU to be a part of it. Whatever your gardening specialty, your insights are valuable and can inspire others. Imagine the satisfaction of stepping up to the podium and enlightening eager minds with your wisdom. Your unique perspective could spark new ideas, ignite passions, and foster connections within our community.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your expertise and contribute to the enrichment of others. Simply email Linda Douglas at [Linda-Douglas@comcast.net](mailto:Linda-Douglas@comcast.net) or text 865-803-3807 with the topics you're willing to present to local clubs or groups.





# march financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association March 2024 Financial Report								
Item	Month Account Summary			Year Summary as of Month End				
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budgeted Income	Budgeted Expense	Actual Income	Actual Expense	Funds Remaining*
Beginning amount	as of 02/29/24		3878.44					
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
County Fair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
December meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Demo garden	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	75.00	925.00
Dues	325.00	0.00	325.00	900.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
Greenhouse, butterfly	0.00	110.49	(110.49)	0.00	1000.00	19.44	454.91	545.09
Plant sale	120.00	66.86	53.14	3800.00	1500.00	120.00	611.30	888.70
Senior Center	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Storage unit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	65.00
Tomato seed project	0.00	23.97	(23.97)	0.00	750.00	0.00	232.88	517.12
Virtual meetings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	0.00	175.00
Wilderness Wildlife	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4H Scholarship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
<b>Totals as of 03/31/24</b>	<b>445.00</b>	<b>201.32</b>	<b>4122.12</b>	<b>4700.00</b>	<b>5290.00</b>	<b>939.44</b>	<b>1974.09</b>	<b>4115.91</b>

\* Budgeted expense minus actual expense; for Dues, actual income

# jr. master gardener march financials

## Junior Master Gardeners Financial Report February 2024

		Totals Remaining 2/29/24	Expenditures March	Totals Remaining 3/31/24
<b>Knoxville Funds</b>		\$ 980.98	\$ -	\$ 980.98
<b>Sevierville Funds</b>		\$ 1,120.62	\$ -	\$ 1,120.62
<b>Total</b>		\$ 2,101.60	\$ -	\$ 2,101.60
<b>Education</b>				
Leaf and Vine: CS	Consumables	\$ 113.10	\$ -	\$ 113.10
Curriculum supplies	Lesson supplements	\$ 100.00	\$ 43.26	\$ 56.74
Curriculum supplies	Field Trips	\$ 150.00	\$ -	\$ 150.00
	Beyond the Classroom	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Summer Programs	Day Camp	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	Mornings in the Garden	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00
	Summer showcase	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Outreach programs	Supplies	\$ 229.77	\$ 26.97	\$ 202.80
<b>Orientation</b>				
Fall Kickoff	Supplies	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ 50.00
<b>Garden</b>				
Demo Garden Bed	Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 54.98	\$ 445.02
Plant Sale	Supplies	\$ 141.65	\$ (5.00)	\$ 146.65
<b>Snacks</b>				
Leaf and Vine	Meeting snacks	\$ 189.02	\$ -	\$ 189.02
<b>Community Service</b>				
Project	Supplies	\$ 112.04	\$ -	\$ 112.04
<b>Other Expenses</b>		\$ 478.51		\$ 478.51
<b>Budget TOTAL:</b>		\$ 2,714.09	\$ 120.21	\$ 2,593.88
<b>Funds Not Budgeted</b>		\$ 1,387.51		\$ 1,387.51
<b>Deposits Budgeted</b>		(2000.00)*		(2000.00)*
		*income expected for next year		
<b>Total Funds</b>		\$ 4,101.60		\$ 3,981.39





## contacts

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UT Sevier Co Extension Office

## 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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