

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

NOVEMBER /DECEMBER 2024



SEVIER COUNTY
U|REXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



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

Speaker: Keith Watson
Birds of Sevier County

A native to Sevier County, Keith has over 35 years of national birding experience, including East Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains. He began his birding experience as a conservationist and birder in the mid-1970’s in Knoxville, TN as a student at the University of Tennessee. He often traveled to and experienced the “waves” of warblers on Sharp’s Ridge (Knoxville), known regionally for its attraction to migrating songbirds.

During his career with the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service, he advanced bird conservation in the Caribbean, Appalachian Mountains, Southeast Coastal Plain, and the Piedmont regions of the U.S. and developed an Avian Conservation Implementation Plan for each national park unit in the southeastern region of the NPS (57).



After leaving federal service, Keith and his wife Ruth moved “home” to the Smoky Mountains where he established the Southern Appalachian Bird Conservancy, a small business to assist local and regional conservationists with bird conservation needs. He has assisted the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with Peregrine Falcon monitoring, Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts, and special wetland surveys and developed an Avian Conservation Implementation Plan for the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Piedmont Bird Conservation Region. Together with fellow birders, he has documented birds never reported for Sevier County, TN.



opportunities

volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center Garden Work Days Wednesday, November 20th, Saturday, December 7th, 9:00 AM.

My People Senior Activity Center Christmas for the Birds, Wednesday, December 18th, 12:30 – 3:00 PM. Come help us make Christmas and New Year's special for our birds.

Wilderness Wildlife Week, January 28th through February 1st, 2025. Contact Steve Greenwell at 9catsfarm@gmail.com for information.

meetings & events

November Board Meeting, Tuesday, November 12th 3 PM.

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

2024 MG Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, Monday, December 2nd 6 PM. Sevierville Golf Club.

January Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 21st, 3:00 PM.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, January 27th, 6:00 PM (a week later than usual due to MLK Holiday).

Wilderness Wildlife Week, January 28th through February 1st, 2025.

educational

Melody's Monday Musings (Greene County).

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Buncombe County (NC) Master Gardener Video Series.

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Discover Life in America from our own GSMNP offers a variety of online educational resources, including a podcast and archives from the popular Science @ the Sugarlands (pre-pandemic).

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

demo garden news

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped out in our Demo Garden this year. It has been a busy year full of change and revitalization. I believe that gardens are meant to morph into areas that create beauty and interest.

As a garden's beauty begins to wane, as all gardens do, it is an opportunity to make a new garden with a new purpose. We have created a few new gardens this year and there are some very exciting gardens coming next year!

Happy Holidays,
Diane



Christmas Party

December 2, 2024

6:00 PM

Sevier Golf Club

1444 Old Knoxville Highway

Cost \$26.00 per person

Bring a centerpiece for exchange game.

You must RSVP and Pay by November 18th.



letter from the president

Transform Your Garden for the Winter Holidays

Transforming your garden for the winter holidays can create a beautiful, cozy escape right at home! Here are some ideas to make your winter garden festive and inviting:

1. Winter Plants and Greenery

Evergreens: Add small evergreen trees or bushes in pots around your garden. These will look beautiful with a dusting of snow, and you can decorate them with lights or ornaments.

Holly and Berries: Holly bushes and winter-berry shrubs add a pop of red to the winter garden, perfect for a holiday look.

Potted Plants: Fill outdoor planters with hardy seasonal plants like pansies, ornamental kale, or hellebores that thrive in cooler temperatures.

2. Twinkling Lights

String Lights: Drape string lights around tree trunks, hedges, or along fences. Choose warm white lights for a cozy glow or mix in colorful lights for a festive touch.

Lanterns and Candlelight: Place lanterns with LED candles on pathways or steps to create a magical, inviting feel.

3. Outdoor Decor

Wreaths and Garlands: Hang wreaths on gates or trellises, and wrap garlands along fences or around doorways. Natural garlands with pine cones and berries give a rustic touch.

Decorative Figures: Add statues or holiday-themed figures, such as reindeer or snowmen, to bring some fun to the garden.



Holiday Containers: Dress up planters with ornaments, pine cones, and sprigs of holly. If you have large containers, consider placing some small decorative Christmas trees in them.

4. Cozy Seating Area

Warm Blankets and Cushions: Create a winter seating area with cozy throws and cushions. Use weather-resistant furniture or cover furniture to protect it from snow or rain.

Outdoor Heater or Fire Pit: A fire pit or outdoor heater can extend your time outdoors even when it's chilly. Gather around with hot drinks for a perfect winter experience.

5. Bird Feeders and Wildlife Attractions

Bird Feeders: Attract winter birds by hanging feeders with seeds and suet. This also adds movement and life to the garden.

Winter Shelters: Create or add shelters like birdhouses or small log piles for wildlife to enjoy and seek refuge in the cold months.

Add some of these things to your garden and continue to enjoy it throughout the Holiday season.

Diane McCullen

SCAMGA President



We currently have a vacancy for the position of Member At Large. At this time, Steve Greenwell is the sole nominee. If you are interested in being considered for this position or would like to nominate someone else, please inform Diane by the November Monthly Meeting.

Duties:

1. Represent the General Membership to the Executive Board, including presenting member projects to the board.
2. Manage the Speaker's Bureau. (This involves a few emails if necessary)

Please email Diane at ldmccullen@sbcglobal.net and let her know





jr. master gardeners

Exploring the World of Southern Folk Medicine JMG-Garden Gurus

For generations, Appalachians have foraged in their own backyard to create herbal remedies and medication. This is what JMG's new group, Garden Gurus, (for kids in grades 7-12) is investigating this fall.

Participants are learning about the peoples who contributed to mountain remedies including Granny Women, who knew the healing powers of herbs, roots, bark, and other plant parts -- and they knew which combinations of herbs would be the best remedy for each treatment.

After studying some of the plants used here in the Smoky Mountains, Gurus explored the methods used to administer these remedies which included tisanes, tinctures, poultices and salves. A tasting of Peppermint, anise, chamomile and spearmint tisanes wrapped up the meeting.





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

OCTOBER 21, 2024

PROGRAM

ohn Oakberg presented a session on how to winterize your tools.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Diane McCullen at 7:03 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the September meeting was published in the last newsletter. There were no additions or corrections, and the minutes will stand as printed.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The November program will be Birds of Sevier County by Keith Watson.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The August financial report was published in the last newsletter. The report will stand as printed.

The budget has been balanced. The board has agreed to allow the plant sale budget to go over predicted amount. This will allow the purchase of seeds for next year's sale at a reduced cost.

John needs predicted budgets for 2025 as soon as possible.

EXTENSION AGENT

The 2025 class has been posted on Facebook. Matt has emailed the people who have indicated an interest in the class. He will send out an email to the MGs with topic dates for volunteer opportunities. Matt reminded the group to enter you hours and send him photos of projects if you have any.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEMO GARDEN

Diane stated that there will be a workday tomorrow October 22nd at 10 a.m.

NEWSLETTER

Please have all articles and information to Mandy by November 1st. November and December will be included in the next edition.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenna reported that they are cleaning up the gardens for winter. She asked about a club trip to Gibbs Garden in Georgia.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Patsy announced she needs to know how many will be attending the Christmas party this year. The party will be on December 2nd at 6:00 pm. It will take place at the Sevier County Golf Club. Payment will be due at November meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

VENDOR LIST FOR PLANT SALE

Diane reminded everyone to contact Dixie with vendor information.

NEW GARDEN

Steve stated that he will start an East TN Heirloom Vegetable Garden with heirloom seeds from the Walker Sisters and the Ramsey house in the demonstration garden.

NEW BUSINESS

MEMBER AT LARGE

Steve Greenwell has been nominated for this position. Any other nominations will be taken at the November meeting and a vote will be held.

ADAM HOPKINS

A sympathy card was sent around for the MGs to sign.

CLEANING POTS

Diane has lots of pots that need to be cleaned for next plant sale. Let her know if you can help with this project.

ADAM HOPKINS

Matt asked for award nominations for the December meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Scaccianoce, Secretary



pots, potluck and propagation



October 2nd was a beautiful day as the sun started to peek through the trees and offset the morning chill. Although I am not fond of early mornings I set the alarm, wolfed down a cup of coffee and arrived promptly at 9 am.

Glenna Jullian was already setting up tables for the buffet and the pot washing area. There were gloves, bleach and three huge containers of pots to be disinfected and washed. One by one the volunteers wandered in. We all took stations as if we were a well-rehearsed drill team. Gloves were donned and the work began. Dirt was shaken out of the pots; next the pots were scrubbed in detergent and bleach. Then they went on to the rinse area and finally were hand dried with care. We were a bit tired after the first container and tried not to notice that we had two more to complete. The smiles, companionship and laughter were the ingredients that sustained the crew during the rest of the cleaning process.

Just as we were finishing at about 11 a.m. Matthew Anderson arrived to present a hands-on demonstration of how to propagate plants. Propagate meaning to produce a plant from a parent plant. We wandered around Glenna's beautiful looking for specimens. Mathew demonstrated how to find the node of the plant and to do a stem cutting.

Next, Glenna took the group on a tour of her garden. It hosts many native plants and flowers. She shared her extensive knowledge of native plants with the group. There were blossoms and native trees and bushes that were a delight to behold. The final stop was at the pond where huge goldfish lived.



The event ended with a potluck lunch that sated the diligent group. The event proved that work, learning, food and plants are always the perfect companions.

september financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association September 2024 Financial Report								
Item	Month Account Summary			Year Summary as of Month End				
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Budgeted Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Funds Remaining*</u>
Beginning: 08/31/24			5183.98					
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	551.54	448.46
Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
Greenhouse, butterfly	0.00	98.07	(98.07)	0.00	1000.00	19.44	820.42	179.58
Plant sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	3800.00	1500.00	3792.75	1188.55	311.45
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	70.54	(70.54)	0.00	750.00	0.00	531.85	218.15
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
Ending: 09/30/24	0.00	168.61	5015.37	4700.00	5290.00	4812.19	3692.36	2597.64

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

jr. master gardner august financials

Junior Master Gardeners Financial Report August 2024

		Totals Remaining 7/31/24	Expenses August	Totals Remaining 8/31/24
Knoxville Funds		-169.41		-338.30
Sevierville Funds		1120.62		1120.62
Total		951.21		782.32
Education				
Leaf and Vine: CS	Consumables	22.35		22.35
Curriculum supplies	Lesson supplements	3.88	4.38	.50
Outside the Classroom	Field Trips	86.27		86.27
	Beyond the Classroom	4.00		4.00
Summer Programs	Day Camp	26.25		26.25
	MG	7.41		7.41
	Summer showcase	100		100
Outreach programs	Supplies	124.33		124.33
Orientation				
Fall Kickoff	Supplies	50.		50.
Garden				
Demo Garden Bed	Supplies	.86		.86
Plant Sale	Supplies	14.01		14.01
Snacks				
Leaf and Vine	Meeting snacks	126.31	33.33	92.98
Community Service				
Project	Supplies	112.04		112.04
Other Expenses		280.81	131.18	149.63
Budget TOTAL:		943.70	168.89	774.81
Funds Not Budgeted		1387.51		1387.51
Deposit				
Deposits Budgeted		1380.		1380
TOTAL Budgeted Funds		2331.21		2162.31



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seed saving resources

Books

Saving Our Seeds: The Practice and Philosophy, Bevin Cohen.

From Our Seeds and Their Keepers: A Collection of Stories, Bevin Cohen and Bill Best.

The Complete Guide To Saving Seeds: 322 Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits, Flowers, Trees, and Shrubs, Robert E. Gough and Cheryl Moore Gough.

Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners, 2nd Edition, Suzanne Ashworth.

Saving Seeds: A Home Gardener's Guide to Preserving Plant Biodiversity, Dan Jason.

Beginning Seed Saving for Home Gardeners, James Ulanger.
The Seed Garden, Lee Buttala.

Saving Vegetable Seeds, Fern Marshall Bradley.

Saving Seeds, Preserving Taste: Heirloom Seed Savers in Appalachia, Bill Best.

Videos

Growing a Greener World Episode 224: Saving Heirloom Seed Varieties
<https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode224/>

Growing a Greener World Episode 1103: More than Just a Seed
<https://www.growingagreenerworld.com/episode-1103-more-than-just-a-seed/>

Svalbard, Norway "Doomsday Vault"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtD_Gg_rHNY

National Seed Storage Laboratory
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZVUz2-k5xQ>

Thank to Karen Less for putting this list together.