

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

OCTOBER 2024



SEVIER COUNTY
UEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



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Wears Valley Fall Festival
October 18 - 20. Opens at 10:00 am

Don't forget that the 11th Annual Wears Valley Fall Festival will take place from October 18 to 20! With sixteen acres dedicated to family fun, this event promises excitement for all ages. Explore over 240 talented crafters showcasing unique handmade goods, perfect for finding that special treasure or gift.

October Meeting Info Monday, October 21, 2024 6:00 PM

Speaker: John Oakberg
Winterizing your Garden Tools



For the October program, John Oakberg will discuss the essentials of safety and maintenance for both motorized and manual garden tools. He will also bring some tools for demonstration.

John emphasizes that there's much more to know beyond simply reading the manual, which everyone should

do. He'll cover safety tips, best practices, and insights that can help your tools last longer, perform better, and be safer to use.

From a young age, John and his brother Frank were intrigued by mechanical devices, particularly one-cylinder gas engines. They often disassembled motors to understand how they worked. Later, John worked as a small engine mechanic, which helped him gain valuable knowledge about keeping lawn mowers in top condition—information that often isn't included in manuals.

The maintenance requirements for gas-powered motors have evolved significantly since John's early experiences. Many of the complicated maintenance tasks are no longer necessary, and most maintenance can now be done by anyone, enhancing safety and reliability. No extensive mechanical or electrical experience is required—though reading the manual is still essential!

With the rise of effective battery-powered garden tools, many maintenance tips for gas-powered tools also apply to battery-operated ones. Regardless of the power source, the maintenance processes are surprisingly similar.

Feel free to bring any specific questions about your power tools, or ask for advice if you're considering a new purchase.



opportunities volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center
Garden Work Days Wednesday, October
16th, Saturday, November 2nd, 9:00
AM.

Demo Garden Work Days, Tuesday,
October 22nd, 10:00 AM

meetings & events

TEMG State Conference, October 9th
through 11th, hosted by Davidson and
Williamson Counties. Register Now at
<https://mastergardener.tennessee.edu/>

Monthly Meeting, Monday, October 21st,
6:00 PM.

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

2024 MG Christmas Party and Awards
Dinner, Monday, December 2nd. Details
TBA

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 edu-
cational resources, including a podcast
and archives from the popular Science
@ the Sugarlands (pre-pandemic).

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Fall in the Garden, Friday, October 25,
10:00 AM, Demo Garden. Contact
Matt for information

TEMG 2024 Welcome Home Series,
October, 25th, 22nd, 6:30 PM.

demo garden news

I hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather. Our gardens have served us well this year but it is time to put them to bed for the winter. We will have our final scheduled workday on October 22nd at 10:00 am. The irrigation will be turned off and I'm hoping to collect a few seeds for next year. Come out if you can.

Diane



letter from the president

“October is a fallen leaf, but it
is also the wider horizon more
clearly seen”
- Hal Borland

As I learn more about Holistic Gardening, I begin to realize that while I may pull a few more weeds and I may get a few less tomatoes, some of my biggest chores are reduced or eliminated. One of these jobs that has disappeared from my to do list is raking the leaves. Leaving fallen leaves in your yard or garden has numerous environmental and practical benefits. Here's why it's a good idea to Leave the Leaves:

1. Natural Mulch and Fertilizer

As leaves break down, they provide essential nutrients to the soil. This natural compost improves soil structure and fertility, reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers.

2. Wildlife Habitat

Leaves create a habitat for many creatures, including beneficial insects, spiders, frogs, and small mammals. Many species, such as butterflies and bees, rely on leaf litter for overwintering.

3. Soil Health and Erosion Control

A layer of leaves can prevent soil erosion by protecting the ground from heavy rain. Additionally, decomposing leaves add organic matter to the soil, improving its water-holding capacity and aeration.

4. Biodiversity Support

Leaf litter helps maintain a diverse ecosystem. Beneficial fungi, microbes, and earthworms thrive in these conditions, contributing to the overall health of your garden or yard.



5. Energy and Time Savings

Instead of raking, bagging, and hauling leaves away, leaving them in place saves time and effort. This also cuts down on energy consumption from leaf blowers and reduces waste going to landfills.

6. Carbon Sequestration

By allowing leaves to decompose naturally, you help lock carbon in the soil, contributing to climate change mitigation.

7. Moisture Retention

Leaves act as a natural mulch, helping to retain moisture in the soil. This is especially beneficial in dry climates or during periods of drought.

Tips for Managing Fallen Leaves:

Mow them: Instead of raking, you can mow the leaves to break them into smaller pieces. This speeds up decomposition and allows them to integrate into the soil faster.
Create leaf piles: If you don't want leaves covering your entire lawn, you can create designated leaf piles or compost them.
Leaving leaves is not just about reducing yard work; it's about nurturing the environment and promoting sustainability in a simple, effective way.

Diane McCullen
SCAMGA President



We need to fill the position of Member At Large on the board. It is a great way to learn about the Master Gardener organization from the inside. The board meets 6 times a year during the day in odd months. Please consider volunteering for this position.

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



The Squash Vine Borer
This brutal beast ruined many crops
this summer including dashing
the giant pumpkin dreams of your
newsletter editor.



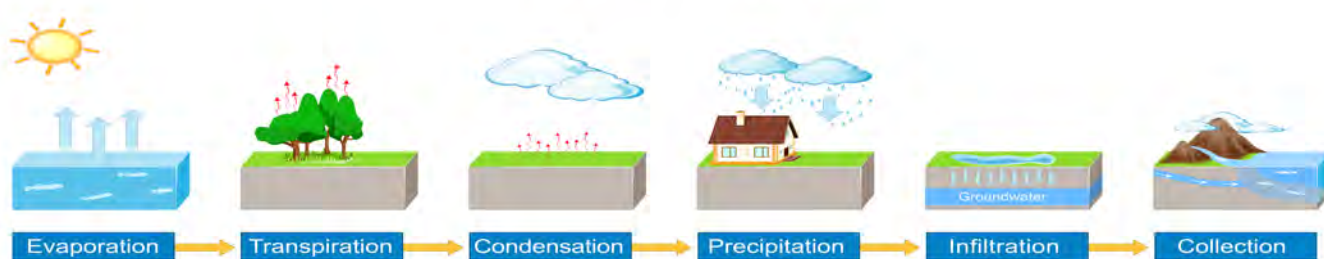
jr. master gardeners

the water cycle and you

JMG dove into the water cycle by crafting a water cycle museum to explore how water on our planet recycles itself through the processes of infiltration, percolation, evaporation, transpiration, condensation and precipitation. The water cycle is a cycle that involves the continuous circulation of water in the Earth-atmosphere system. After discussing their observations, kids created a watercolor collection area (ocean oasis) for our fishy friends!



Water cycle





SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDNERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

PROGRAM

Karen Less presented an informative session on Seed Saving.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Diane McCullen at 7:16 PM.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

EXTENSION AGENT

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

JUNIOR MASTER GARDNERS

Melanie reported that she is starting up sessions again. There will be two groups due to the number of students. The groups will be 4th to 8th grade and 7th grade to 12th grade. She will be lecturing on herbs of the an Appalachian garden and will also demonstrate how to make lip balms and salves using the herbs. Other topics will also be covered.

DEMO GARDEN

Diane stated that there will be a workday

tomorrow September 17th at 10 a.m.

FAIR

Diane stated that attendance was very low this year most likely due to the hot weather and rain. Approximately 350 individuals visited the booth. She also reported that the Butterfly house was not well received and recommended that we do not continue this in the future. She felt that the location of the booth probably contributed to the decreased amount of people who visited. She will ask for a more noticeable space next year. .

NEWSLETTER

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

SENIOR CENTER

Glenna reported that the herb garden and Butterfly Garden at the Senior Center are still looking beautiful. She invited everyone to a "pot-washing" and educational session on "How to start plants from cuttings". It will be held at her house at 766 Pollard Road, Kodak on October 2nd starting at 9 a.m. The education session will begin at 11 a.m. It is also a luncheon, and everyone was asked to bring a dish.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

VENDOR LIST FOR PLANT SALE

Diane reminded everyone to contact Dixie with vendor information.

NEWSLETTER

Diane related that we will ask the public if they wish to receive an emailed version of the

newsletter. It will be a modified version and probably only go out a few times a year. Looking Ahead Section- Please let Mandy know as soon as possible about future events.

A suggestion was made to have a Classified Ad section in the newsletter if you have a plant related item to sell or give away.

STATE CONVENTION

This will be held in Franklin TN. October 9th 10th and 11th.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW GARDEN

Steve stated that he would like to start an East TN Heirloom Vegetable Garden with heirloom seeds from the Walker Sisters and the Ramsey house. It would be located in a small area in front of the greenhouse. Everyone was excited about this development.

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.

for pick up and on the 15th for tree distribution.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Monica Scaccianoce, Secretary

august financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association August 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 07/31/24		5181.90					
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	22.92	(22.92)	0.00	1000.00	0.00	551.54	448.46
Dues	25.00	0.00	25.00	900.00	0.00	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
Greenhouse, butterfly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00	19.44	722.35	277.65
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	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	461.31	288.69
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
Totals as of 08/31/24	25.00	22.92	5183.98	4700.00	5290.00	4812.19	3523.75	2766.25

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

jr. master gardner july financials

Junior Master Gardeners Financial Report July 2024

		Totals Remaining 6/30/24		Totals Remaining 7/31/24
Knoxville Funds		-69.74		-169.41
Sevierville Funds		1120.62		1120.62
Total		1050.88		951.21
Education				
Leaf and Vine: CS	Consumables	22.35		22.35
Curriculum supplies	Lesson supplements	3.88		3.88
Outside the Classroom	Field Trips	86.27		86.27
	Beyond the Classroom	4.00		4.00
Summer Programs	Day Camp	37.5	11.25	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	159.66	33.35	126.31
Community Service				
Project	Supplies	112.04		112.04
Other Expenses		335.88	55.07	280.81
Budget TOTAL:		1043.37	99.67	943.70
Funds Not Budgeted		1387.51		1387.51
Deposit				
Deposits Budgeted		1380.		1380.
TOTAL Budgeted Funds		2430.88	Total with expected deposit	2331.21

contacts

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training opportunity

A poster for chainsaw training. The top half features a collage of images: a person using a chainsaw, a close-up of a chainsaw blade, and a person in a blue shirt and orange helmet. The text 'CHAINSAW TRAINING' is prominently displayed in white and yellow. Below this, the date and time are listed: 'November 19, 2024 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Lunch Provided'. A yellow box labeled 'LOCATION' contains the address: 'UT Arboretum 901 S. Illinois Avenue, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830'. To the right, under 'TOPICS:', there are three bullet points: 'Chainsaw safety', 'Proper use of equipment', and 'Tree felling techniques'. Below this, the price is listed as '\$25'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, there is a contact number '865-453-3695' and a phone icon. The footer contains logos for 'Real. Life. Solutions.', 'UT EXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE', and 'LSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION'.