

roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

SEPTEMBER 2024



SEVIER COUNTY
UREXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



in this issue

- July Meeting info2
- Wilderness Wild Life Week2
- Meetings, Events, Educational &
Volunteer Opportunities3
- Plant Spot Light2
- Letter from the President4
- Demo Garden News.....4
- Visitors to the Garden5
- August Meeting Minutes6
- Fun at the Fair.....7
- July Financials8
- Contacts9

save the dates

**Christmas Party: Monday,
December 2nd.**

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

September Meeting Monday, September 16, 2024

Speaker: Karen Less
Seed Saving

Seed banks are becoming more prevalent across the country. But what does it take to harvest and save viable seeds that will reliably grow plants for the future? We will discuss this and related topics in Seed Saving Basics with Karen Less. Karen has dabbled in seed saving since 2018, after completing an introductory workshop with Bevin Cohen, author of Saving Our Seeds, at the Mother Earth Newsfair in Asheville, NC. She typically plants something from saved seeds annually.

wilderness wildlife week



Showcasing what makes the Smokies so special, Wilderness Wildlife Week celebrates the abundance of wildlife, variety of plants, trees, and wildflowers, and rich history of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee through a series of classes, seminars, demonstrations, guided hikes, panel discussions, and workshops.

January 28, 2025 through February 1, 2025
The Ramsey Hotel

opportunities

volunteer

My People Senior Activity Center
Garden Work Days Wednesday,
September 18th, Saturday, October
5th, 9:00 AM.

Demo Garden Work Days, Tuesday,
September 17th, 10:00 AM.

meetings & events

Board Meeting, Tuesday, September
10th, 3:00 PM

Monthly Meeting, Monday, September
16th, 6:00 PM

TEMG State Conference, October 9th
through 11th, hosted by Davidson and
Williamson Counties.
Registration Link.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, October
21st, 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). <https://sites.google.com/utk.edu/mondaymusings/2023-schedule?authuser=0>

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

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). Go to <https://dlia.org/education/> for information.

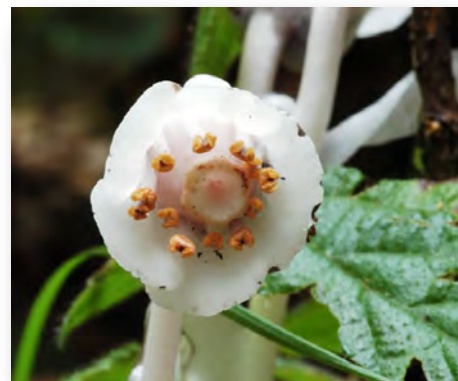
Fall in the Garden, Fridays, September 27, and October 25, 10:00 am, Demo Garden. Contact Matt for information.

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

NC State Agroforestry Tours, Tuesday, October 1st, Banks Mountain Forest Farm, Hendersonville, NC
Registration Link.

Save the Date! WNC Gardening Symposium, October 9th, Asheville, NC. Featured speakers include renowned environmentalist and author Doug Tallamy and Craig LeHoullier, the author of Epic Tomatoes.

plant spotlight



Monotropa uniflora, featured on the newsletter cover, is commonly known as ghost plant or Indian pipe, is a unique, non-photosynthetic plant found in shaded forest floors across North America and parts of Asia. Unlike most plants, it lacks chlorophyll, which gives it its distinctive pale, almost translucent appearance.

Instead of producing its own food through photosynthesis, *Monotropa uniflora* derives nutrients by forming a symbiotic relationship with fungi that are connected to the roots of nearby trees. This intriguing plant typically appears after heavy rainfall and blooms from late summer to early fall. Its ghostly white or pink-tinged stalks and bell-shaped flowers have made it a subject of fascination among botanists and nature enthusiasts alike.

letter from the president

As we go into my favorite season I thought I would remind you of all the amazing things that Fall brings. In the fall, or autumn, several natural and cultural events occur, marking the transition from summer to winter. Here's a breakdown of what happens during this season:

Nature and Environment

Leaf Changes: Many trees, especially deciduous ones, change the color of their leaves to vibrant shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. This happens because the chlorophyll in the leaves breaks down as daylight decreases and temperatures drop, revealing other pigments like carotenoids and anthocyanins.

Leaf Fall: After changing color, leaves eventually fall off the trees. This is a way for trees to conserve water and energy during the winter months.

Temperature Drops: Temperatures generally begin to cool down after the hot summer months, leading to more comfortable, crisp weather.

Migration and Hibernation: Many animals begin to prepare for winter by migrating to warmer climates or entering hibernation. For example, birds like geese often migrate south, while bears start hibernating.

Harvest Season: Fall is a critical time for harvesting crops. Many fruits and vegetables, such as apples, pumpkins, squash, and corn, are ready to be harvested. This has historically made fall a time of abundance and preparation for the winter.



Cultural Events and Traditions

Festivals and Holidays: Fall is associated with numerous cultural events and holidays. In the United States, there's Thanksgiving, which involves family gatherings and feasts to celebrate the harvest. Halloween is also a popular holiday in many countries, involving costumes, trick-or-treating, and spooky decorations.

Back to School: For many students, fall marks the start of a new school year. This brings a return to structured routines after the summer break.

Sports: Fall is a big season for sports, especially football in the United States and soccer in many other countries. This season is marked by high school, college, and professional sports events.

Fashion: As temperatures cool, people start wearing warmer clothing, such as sweaters, jackets, and boots. Fall fashion often includes earthy tones and layers to accommodate varying temperatures.

Daylight Changes: In many countries, fall is when daylight saving time ends, causing clocks to be set back by one hour. This change results in earlier sunsets and shorter daylight hours.

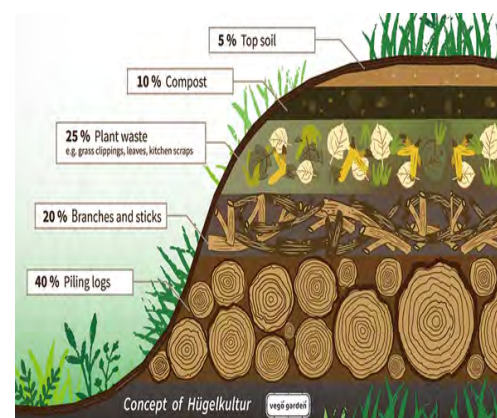
Overall, fall is a season of transition, marked by changes in nature, culture, and daily routines. It brings a mix of beauty, preparation, and celebration as people and animals get ready for the coming winter.

demo garden news

We will have one workday this month. It will be on Tuesday, September 17th at 10:00 am.



I would like to give a big shout out to Darlene Kemp for adopting the Hugelkultur Garden and Laura DeCarlo for adopting the new Herb Garden. I am sure those gardens will be awesome!!





visitors to the garden



Argiope aurantia, commonly known as the black and yellow garden spider or the writing spider, is a large, orb-weaving spider found throughout North America. Distinguished by its striking black and yellow markings, it creates intricate webs, often adorned with a zigzag pattern known as a stabilimentum. This web serves not only to catch prey but may also act as a warning to larger animals to avoid damaging the web. *Argiope aurantia* is a beneficial predator in gardens, feeding on insects such as flies, aphids, and mosquitoes. Despite its intimidating size and appearance, it is non-aggressive towards humans and poses little threat.

The Gulf fritillary butterfly (*Agraulis vanillae*) is a striking species known for its vibrant orange wings adorned with black spots and silvery-white patches on the underside. Found primarily in the southern United States, Central America, and parts of South America, this butterfly thrives in warm climates and is commonly associated with passionflower plants, which serve as both a nectar source and a host plant for its larvae. Its graceful flight and brilliant coloration make it a favorite sight in gardens and meadows, contributing to pollination and the overall biodiversity of its environment.

The goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*), also known as the American goldfinch, is a small North American bird renowned for its vibrant yellow plumage, particularly in males during the breeding season.

This species belongs to the finch family, Fringillidae, and is commonly found in weedy fields, open woodlands, and suburban areas. Goldfinches are primarily seed eaters, favoring plants such as thistles and sunflowers. Their distinctive, undulating flight pattern and cheerful song make them a popular sight in gardens and bird feeders across the United States and Canada.



SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDNERS ASSOCIATION

meeting minutes

August 19, 2024

PROGRAM

JDiane McCullen reviewed the amazing progress of the Demo Garden.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Diane McCullen at 7:05 p.m.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

The minutes of the July meeting were published in the last newsletter. The minutes will stand as printed

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Andrew Hennigh announced Karen Less will be doing a program on Seed Saving next month.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Financial reporting has slowed due to UT accounting cycle.

JMG’S REPORT

No Report

EXTENSION AGENT REPORT

August 27, 2024 is the Fall Gardeners Conference in Crossville. Matt noted a variety of topics will be covered. Matthew will be hosting Fall in the Garden, August 30th, September 27th and October 25th at 10 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEMO GARDEN

DianeMcCullen stated there will be one scheduled workdays in August 20th at 8 AM Work will include adding woodchips and pulling weeds.

SENIOR CENTER

Glenna Julia reported the Butterfly Garden is doing well. Workdays at the Senior Center are Wednesday and Saturday from 9 AM - 12 PM.
On 9/18, come and wash pots.

BUTTERFLY HOUSE

Diane McCullen has taken over the management of the Butterfly House and it will be an educational space.

NEWSLETTER

Diane McCullen asked all present to have all articles and information to Mandy by August 30th.

OLD BUSINESS

FAIR

Diane needs any donation of plants for the fair by Monday.

CERTIFICATE FOR INTERNS

Diane McCullen handed out certificates for the Interns.

NEW BUSINESS

TEMG CONFERENCE

The conference is in Franklin and Nashville, October 9th - 11th. Early Bird registration by August 31st is \$140. The hotel rate at the Drury Plaza is \$150 per night.

RANDOM ACTS OF FLOWERS

The non-profit is looking for donation of vases for their project to bring cheer to people in nursing homes and hospitals.

EAGLE FOUNDATION

There will be a program on September 25th at 5:30 PM. The address is 510 Kodak Road, Kodak TN.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was called to close at 7:27p.m.

Mandy Hyde



fun at the fair



master gardener july financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association July 2024 Financial Report								
Item	Month Account Summary			Year Summary as of Month End				
	Income	Expense	Balance	Budgeted Income	Expense	Actual Income	Expense	Funds Remaining*
Beginning amount	as of 06/30/24		6418.13					
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	528.62	471.38
Dues	25.00	0.00	25.00	900.00	0.00	975.00	0.00	975.00
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 07/31/24	25.00	0.00	6443.13	4700.00	5290.00	4787.19	3500.83	2764.17

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

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UT Sevier Co Extension Office



The poster 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 hard hat. The text is bold and clear, with a QR code and contact information.

CHAINSAW TRAINING

November 19, 2024
9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Lunch Provided

TOPICS :

- Chainsaw safety
- Proper use of equipment
- Tree felling techniques

PRICE:
\$25

LOCATION
UT Arboretum
901 S. Illinois Avenue,
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Contact us
865-453-3695

QR CODE

Logos: Real. Life. Solutions™, UT EXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, and LSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION