



roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

AUGUST 2026



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August Meeting Info Monday, August 17, 2026



"I scream, you scream, we all scream for Ice Cream!"

Join us on Monday, August 17th at 6:00 at the Extension Building for our annual Ice Cream Social. Bring your favorite ice cream (non-dairy varieties will also be available) or fixings/go-withs, and help us beat the heat. We will have a short business meeting, and will also cover last-minute details in advance of the Sevier County Fair that starts September 1st. If you haven't signed up to volunteer at the fair, contact Angela Myers for available slots.

We look forward to seeing you at the Ice Cream Social.

On The Cover

Hibiscus moscheutos, commonly called rose mallow or swamp hibiscus, is a striking native perennial known for its enormous, dinner-plate-sized flowers. Blooming in shades of white, pink, and deep rose, it thrives in full sun and moist soil, adding bold summer color while attracting bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds..

Picnic Bingo Bounty



President's Column

Hello, Master Gardeners!

How did it get to be August so quickly? 2026 is really flying by, and before we know it, we'll be celebrating our accomplishments for the year at the Christmas Party and Awards Dinner.

On that note, I wanted to focus everyone's attention on getting your hours completed and logged into the system. This is especially important for our 2026 interns, since internship hours exceed those required for certified master gardeners. As we get closer to the end of the year, the number of volunteer opportunities decreases. Our last big volunteer event will be the Sevier County Fair starting September 1st. There will be lots of opportunities for volunteer hours, with the fair running from Tuesday until Labor Day. Sign ups are currently going on, so contact Angela Myers (information on the Contacts page) for available dates and times.

There will be additional volunteering options through the fall, but they won't be as frequent or require as many people. There will be hours at both the Demo Garden and Senior Center Gardens in the fall, plus Boys and Girls Club JMG



sessions, and monthly meetings in August through November.

If you haven't reached your minimum required number of hours to your maintain certification, please start planning for getting the hours you will need to complete.

As a reminder, according to our TEMG Handbook, 2026 interns must complete a minimum of 40 hours to be eligible for their initial certification. Certified master gardeners with less than ten years experience are required to log a minimum of 25 volunteer hours plus at least 8 CE hours, and those with 10 or more years of continuous certification as a master gardener must complete a combined total of 15 hours of volunteer and CE hours.

And, don't forget to log your hours! Many hours are lost each year because people get busy and forget to go into the database to record hours shortly after they complete

them. Unless you have an ironclad method to ensure you log your hours, the best way is to go to the database as soon as you complete hours for any project.

Master Gardeners who record at least 100 hours in a calendar year receive special recognition at the awards dinner. A date in mid-November is usually designated as the cut-off for submitting hours for awards recognition (exact date to be announced later in the fall).

Also, remember to add in travel time for any volunteer project. The time starts when you leave home and ends when you arrive back home (assuming you made no stops along the way). In addition to meeting your certification requirements, Sevier County and the Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Program also use volunteer hours submitted for a variety of reports to prove the value of the master gardener program to our communities and our state.

Picnic Fun

We had a good turnout of master gardeners and family at the annual picnic, hosted by Patsy and Don Farmer. The food and fellowship was outstanding, and the bingo prizes were all grown or made by our members. Here are a few photos of the fun. If you weren't able to attend this year, please plan it in for our July meeting date next year.





June Financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association June 2026 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 05/31/26		11472.94					
Added approved items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	453.00	0.00	100.00
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	930.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Demo garden	0.00	9.97	(9.97)	0.00	800.00	26.77	699.64	100.36
Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	950.00	0.00	950.00
Greenhouse	0.00	27.99	(27.99)	0.00	200.00	0.00	297.62	(97.62)
Plant sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	3800.00	300.00	2816.25	45.34	254.66
Senior Center	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tomato seed project	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	466.77	283.23
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: 06/30/26	0.00	37.96	11434.98	5630.00	3125.00	4246.02	2109.37	1965.63
Net Income			(37.96)		2,505.00			2,136.65

Financial Report

The June Financial Statement shows positive overall balance. The month-end balance of remaining budgeted funds is \$1,965.63.

Per our last meeting, the Greenhouse was approved to use some of the money in the "Additionally Approved" budget category, to purchase a Power Outage Alarm. That expense is currently applied to the

Greenhouse category. This expense will be transferred to the "Additionally Approved" category this month.

The next event the Master Gardeners will participate in and possibly have related expenses is the County Fair, in late August.

The Junior Master Gardeners budget is set and managed by the UT Ag. Ext. Agents. The current balance for this budget is \$2,829.94.





Meetings and Events

Monthly Meeting, Monday, August 17th. It will be our annual Ice Cream Social.

Fall Gardeners' Festival, Tuesday, August 25th, 10 AM to 4 PM EDT, UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, 320 Experiment Station Road, Crossville.

Sevier County Fair, Tuesday, September 1st through Monday, September 7th.

Board Meeting, Monday, September 21st, 5:00 PM.

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

Save the Date: SCAMGA Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, Monday, December 7th, 6:00 PM. Sevierville Golf Club.

Save the Date: Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027. LeConte Center.

Volunteer Opportunities

Demo Garden Work Day, Monday, August 10th, 9 AM. Please come to help us get the garden looking great for the Sevier County Fair!

Ask A Master Gardener Booth, Sevier Farmers Market, Saturday, August 22nd. Contact Cat to volunteer.

Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains Junior Master Gardeners program. Contact Dixie Seaton at 615.498.0340 or tdseaton69@gmail.com for dates and times.

There will be no August work days at the My People Senior Activity Center Gardens. Work days will resume in September, so check the September newsletter for additional information. Senior Center Pot

Save the Date: Washing Party and Potluck Luncheon, Tuesday, September 15th at Glenna's House. Additional information will be available in the September newsletter.

Save the Date: Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027. LeConte Center.

Educational Opportunities

Eat Your Backyard Series: Beekeeping Basics with Beekeeper Dean Schultz, Saturday, August 1st, 9-10 AM, Sevier County Extension. Cost: \$15 (includes breakfast). Register [HERE](#) or in person at 752 Old Knoxville Hwy Sevierville TN 37862.

Eat Your Backyard Series: Backyard Fruit Production with University of Tennessee Specialist Dr. Annie Vogel, Saturday, August 8th, 9-10 AM, Sevier County Extension. Cost: \$15 (includes breakfast). Register [HERE](#) or in-person at 752 Old Knoxville Hwy Sevierville TN 37862.

UT Hort Friday Office Hours, Friday Office Hours August 14th, September 11th 10:00 AM. [LINK HERE](#)

Tour of Knox Gardens: Joint Trip with Greene County Master Gardeners, Beardsley Farm UT Gardens, Lakeshore Park, Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, Thursday, August 13th, \$30 (including catered bag lunch). Contact Cat for information and registration.

Fall Gardeners' Festival, Tuesday, August 25th, 10 AM to 4 PM EDT, UT Plateau AgResearch and Education Center, 320 Experiment Station Road, Crossville.



EAT YOUR BACKYARD SERIES:

BACKYARD ORCHARD CLASS \$15

AUGUST 8TH, 2026 9-10 A.M.

752 OLD KNOXVILLE HWY,
SEVIERVILLE TN 37862

Come eat breakfast with us and learn
the basics of how to start your own
orchard at home. We will discuss fruit
selection, pruning techniques, &
common problems/mistakes.

REGISTER ONLINE BY
QR, OR IN PERSON
752 OLD KNOXVILLE
HWY. SEVIERVILLE TN
37862

SEVIER COUNTY
UTEXENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT CAT
LAWSON
CSAMSI@UTK.EDU

tsu COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Contacts

Board

Karen Less, President
greyheroncrafts@gmail.com or sevier-
mastergardner@gmail.com
828.308.5864

Patsy Farmer, Vice President
patsyefarmer1950@gmail.com
865.850.9644

Shauna Bayless, Secretary
Shauna.bayless@gmail.com
517.719.7290

Darlene Kemp, Treasurer
kempmph@yahoo.com
615.594.4617

Steve Greenwell, Member-at-large
sggreenwell@gmail.com
865.556.3636

Project Coordinators

Greenhouse
Shauna Bayless

Intern Class
Diane McCullen
dmccullen11@gmail.com
832.605.5769

Newsletter / Plant Sale
Mandy Hyde
mandy.hyde@earthlink.net
951.662.8557

Demo Garden
Karen Hall
865.851.2922
Elizabeth Andrews
443.975.5551

Tomato Seed Project
Patsy Farmer

Junior Master Gardener
Tiny Tillers
Darlene Kemp

Senior Center Gardens Liaison
Lynn Chalache
865.441.1972
lynnchalache@gmail.com

Adam Hopkins,
Sevier Co. Extension Director
ahopkins@utk.edu
865.453.3695

Cat Lawson
Extension Agent
csams1@utk.edu
865.453.3695 Office

seviermastergardner@gmail.com

UT Sevier Co Extension Office
865.453.3695.

Recipe

Charred Sweet Corn and Tomato Salad

Serves 4

Time: 25 minutes

Ingredients

4 ears sweet corn, husks removed
2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
1 cucumber
½ small red onion, thinly sliced
¼ cup chopped fresh basil
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon fresh lime or lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
Black pepper
½ cup crumbled feta, optional



Directions

Grill the corn for 8–10 minutes, turning occasionally, until lightly charred. You can also cook it in a hot skillet.

Let it cool slightly, then cut the kernels from the cobs

Combine the corn, tomatoes, cucumber, onion, and basil.

Toss with olive oil, citrus juice, salt, and pepper.

Sprinkle with feta and serve warm or chilled.