roots

The monthly newsletter of the Sevier County Area Master Gardeners Association

SEPTEMBER 2026



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On The Cover

Cardinal flower (Lobelia cardinalis) is a striking Tennessee native known for its brilliant red blooms and tall, elegant flower spikes. Naturally found in moist areas such as streambanks and wet woodlands, it provides valuable nectar for hummingbirds and other pollinators. Its vivid color and wildlife benefits make it a beautiful addition to native and rain gardens.

August Meeting Info
Monday, September 21, 2026
Topic: Spotted Lanternfly
Speaker: Mary Glover



Mary Glover is a plant inspector and canine handler for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. She is a familiar face for many of us because she has inspected our plants before the plant sale every year. Her canine, Winnie, is a federal working dog that can detect for Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect. Mary and Winnie conduct plant inspections and surveys responding to reports for Spotted Lanternfly in our state.

Mary is a graduate of the University of Tennessee with a degree in Agriculture. She has been with the department for almost 10 years. Before that she was in the private sector working in the horticulture industry

President's Column

Hello, Master Gardeners!

2026 is winding down. The Sevier County Fair is in session, and we are looking forward to fall gardening.

As we move toward the new year, we need to remember that the election for 2027 officers will be held in a couple of months. It will be here before we know it, so I wanted to take an opportunity to provide some information about what each officer does so you will be informed when you get a call from a member of the Nominating Committee regarding service. Without a committed board, there is no organization to serve our community.

To review, we have five officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Each officer serves a one-year term, but our bylaws do allow for a second consecutive term in the same office. Both President and Member-at-Large positions will be open for next year. Patsy, Shauna, and Darlene have expressed an interest in remaining in their current positions for another year, and I know the Nominating Committee will be happy about that because they have all done a fantastic job this year. Steve Greenwell is finishing his second consecutive term as Member-at-Large, so that position will be open. The Member-at-Large represents the general membership on the board, including presenting projects proposed by a member(s). They also manage the Speakers Bureau, and provides assistance, as needed



to the Vice President regarding programs.

The Presidency will also be open because I only agreed to a one-year term. The President essentially is responsible for appointing project/committee chairs and assuring that those projects and committees are functioning as needed for the organization. They also appoint an independent auditing committee for the annual audit. Of course, the president sets agendas for the monthly meetings, as well as the board meetings, and conducts the meetings.

The Vice President serves as chair of the program committee and is charged with arranging speakers for meetings. They coordinate the approval of service projects and stands in to conduct meetings in the absence of the president.

In addition to taking minutes at monthly meetings and board meetings, the Secretary is charged with maintaining membership lists, collecting all documents and papers of the organization, and conducting correspondence on behalf of the organization.

The Treasurer creates an annual budget draft from project/committee chair budget requests that is presented to the board and the membership for approval, and then provides monthly budget updates to the membership through coordination with UT on expenditures and income sources. The treasurer also oversees the annual financial audit.

All these positions may take some additional time to accomplish the objectives of the positions, such as the Secretary transcribing meeting minutes or the Treasurer working with Debbie Hurst at the Extension Office on financial reports, but the additional time commitment typically isn't more than a few hours each month and those hours count as service time.

With SCAMGA being in existence for as many years as it has, every position has a number of people who have previously held each of the positions (and some people who have held more than one position on the board), and these members are always willing to offer their expertise when asked. So an officer never has to feel like they're alone with a problem or question. And, Cat Lawson is also a valuable resource for all the officers.

If you are contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee concerning becoming an officer, please seriously consider serving. Without officers, there is no SCAMGA. If you have questions, about a position, please feel free to reach out to the person currently holding the office or to me. Thank you for your consideration.

Meeting Minutes August 17, 2026

Before the meeting, members enjoyed an ice cream social.

Call meeting to order
Meeting was called to order at 6:22 pm.

Secretary's Report
Approval of June 15, 2026 Minutes: Minutes were published in the July newsletter and were approved as submitted..

Treasurer's Report
Darlene stated that our overall balance is $11,436.43. There is $1,967.08 left in this year's budget. The report was approved to be submitted for audit.

Extension Agent
Cat reported that there will be a "Smart Yard" class on Sept. 26, 10-11:30 AM, at the Extension Office. An "Ask a Master Gardener" booth will be at the Seymour Farmer's Market on August 22 from 8-12 AM.

Committee Reports

September Meeting
"Spotted Lantern Flies" will be presented by Mary Ann Beute-Glover, Plant Inspector for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

Demo Garden
Karen Hall reported that the county is looking at the water problem. Mulch needs to be spread, and weeds pulled on the path. The elderberry bush can be harvested by anyone who would like the berries for making elderberry syrup, etc. Approximately 1,500 pavers have been donated to the garden. She will need help to pick them up.

Greenhouse
Shauna reported that she has started work on the watering system. She will have an information display in the greenhouse for the fair. She will also be putting quick connect ends on the gray hose.

Sevier County Fair
Angela reported that MG's will have two tables this year. There will be bookmarks, a mystery box, scavenger hunt, bird houses and a raffle for those signing up for the intern classes. Donna Stinnett said the Heritage Garden will be redesigned for corn education.

Senior Center
Diane reported that there will be a pot washing day at Glenna's in September. A grant has been submitted for $50,000 to redo the raised beds. Workdays will be announced for September.

Wilderness Wildlife and Heirloom Garden
Cat stated that they are looking for speakers. Contact her or Steve if you would like to be a presenter.

Social Media
Darlene reported that there were 2,688 views on our Facebook page in July. She will be adding fair and volunteer information to the site.

Newsletter
Karen Less stated that Mandy has transferred her membership to Blount Co. because it is closer to her work. George Hinds-Glover volunteered to take over the newsletter. Articles are still due by the 15th of the month.

Old Business

Demo Garden
Demo Garden has electrical and water issues that are being addressed. The water may be fixed this week.

Christmas Party
Patsy and Angela are in charge this year and will be having a Bingo/Dirty Santa game. If you have a prize to donate, contact Angela.

New Business

Dixie is requesting donations of fairy garden decorations for the Boys and Girls Club. Contact her if you have any to donate.

Scam emails were received in July. They were supposedly from

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Field Trip

Cat, along with Anna from Greene County, arranged for a packed day.

First stop was Beardsley Community Farm in the heart of Knoxville. Beardsley is very impressive as it is all about community. They are striving to provide not only fresh produce, but education for growing and preparing fresh foods. They also provide gardening resources and



accessibility to inner city folks living in a "food desert".

There are at least 20 food deserts in Knoxville neighborhoods. These areas lack access to supermarkets and grocery stores that provide fresh and healthy food. More info at: www.beardsleyfarm.org

Second stop was UT Gardens. My personal favorite and a garden with a variety of qualities and purpose. Vegetables and flowers are expected in a university garden.

This garden has also utilized rain collection, solar power, hardscaping, repurposing, themed event areas, art and sculpture work, educational and family friendly outdoor physical experience. This was my first visit and I will be back!



More info at www.utgardens.tennessee.edu

Third stop was Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum. The history was as impressive as the grounds themselves. I especially enjoyed all the stonework. There are over 2 miles of stone walls and many stone buildings to explore.

In the mid-1900s The Howell family that owned these grounds had an innovative way of selling their trees and plants. Their system made me imagine a day at a "plant spa". The Howell's trees and plants remained in the ground and customers could tour and view the product as it grew in a natural environment. Once they chose their plants, trees or stone they waited in one of the stone round houses where they were served cookies and tea as their orders were freshly dug from the nearby farm garden. What a cool idea! The family's continuous operation lasted more than 215 years.
More info at ww.knoxgarden.org

Lastly, we all gathered at Lakeshore Park for a well-earned and delicious lunch! Then an informative hike around the grounds. The park is an excellent example of how discarded grounds and facilities can be repurposed into useful community assets.

It was once home to Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. After strategic land redevelopment the185 acre park is Knoxville's most utilized public green space. www.lakeshoreparkknoxville.org

This was a fantastic experience!

Submitted by Joan Paul



July Financials

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association July 2026 Financal Report								
	Month Account Summary			Year Summary as of Month End				
				Budgeted		Actual		Funds
Item	Income	Expense	Balance	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Remaining*
Beginning amount	**as of 06/30/26**		**11434.98**					
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
Meetings	0.00	12.87	(12.87)	930.00	100.00	0.00	12.87	87.13
Demo garden	0.00	10.68	(10.68)	0.00	800.00	26.77	710.32	89.68
Dues	25.00	0.00	25.00	900.00	0.00	975.00	0.00	975.00
Greenhouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	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: 07/31/26	**25.00**	**23.55**	**11436.43**	**5630.00**	**3125.00**	**4271.02**	**2132.92**	**1967.08**
Net Income			**1.45**		**2,505.00**			**2,138.10**

Meeting Minutes Continued

Karen Less asking people to send money for phony SCAMGA debts. Let her or Cat know if you receive a suspicious email. It appeared that the information for these scams were coming from access to our newsletter. The Sevier Co. MG Horticulture Page now has our member information secured now so, hopefully, this will not happen again.
The Executive Board will appoint a nominating committee in September for next year's officers. Patsy is staying as VP, Darlene is staying as Treasurer, and Shauna is staying as Secretary. We need nominees for President and Member-at-Large. If you are interested in being on the committee, or serving as an officer, please let a board member know.

Adjournment

The meeting was called to a close at 7:07 PM..

Meetings and Events

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.

Monthly Meeting, Monday, October 19th, 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, September 14th, 9 AM.

Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains Junior Master Gardeners, Tuesdays, September 8th and 22nd, and October 6th, 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Contact Dixie Seaton at 615.498.0340 or tdseaton69@gmail.com for more information.

Senior Center Greenhouse Pot Cleaning and Potluck, Tuesday September 15th, 10 AM, Glenna Julian's home, 766 Pollard Road, Kodak. Bring rubber gloves, old towels or rags, and any brushes or cleaning implements to wash the insides of the pots. Also bring a covered dish to share. Water will be provided, or bring a beverage of your choice. You might also want to bring a chair.

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

Educational Opportunities

UT Hort Friday Office Hours, Friday Office Hours September 11th 10:00 AM. LINK HERE

Smartyards Presentation: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle", Saturday, September 26th, 10:00 to 11:30 AM, Extension Office. Will cover composting, how to build an easy setup, and share ideas for easy upcycling that can be done in the garden. Free event, but registration is required for spacing. LINK TO REGISTER

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

Buncombe County (NC) Master Gardener Video LINK HERE

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 HERE

Roane County Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn Series Replays. LINK HERE

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Composting • Garden Upcycling • Introduction to SMARTYARDS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH

10 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.

752 Old Knoxville Highway, Sevierville TN 37862



SEVIER COUNTY UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

TSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

TENNESSEE SMART YARDS

FREE!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

Any Questions?
Contact
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