ROOTS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
THE SEVIER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION

October
EDITION



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October Program

Our October program will feature two of our long-time master gardeners presenting about "The Three Sisters". This presentation on Heirlooms will be facilitated by **Donna Stinnett** and **Steve Greenwell**. Donna became a master gardener in 2007 and has been a long term fixture at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center. Steve was a 2016 intern, and leads our Wilderness Wildlife Week efforts and the Heritage Bed in the Demo Garden.



The Sevier County Fair

Fun at the Fair

The 2026 Sevier County Fair is in the books, and was a success for SCAMGA. A large group of master gardeners and interns volunteered for the master gardener booth or the Demo Garden, with lots of activities and tours for fair goers. Thank you to everyone who made our presence at the fair a success, especially Angela Myers and her committee.



SEEDS AND SPROUTS
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENERS











Seeds & Sprouts Junior Master Gardener Club
At the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains

The Seeds & Sprouts JMG Club is winding down after a busy growing season! Volunteers start in early April inside the hoop house located behind the B&GC in Sevierville. The students meet after school every week, two groups of 15, to do hands-on learning about seed planting, soils, watering, cuttings, and transplanting. When the sprouts are large enough, they can take them home for their own garden or plant them out into the raised bed in the garden there.

Summer sessions move to mornings, and its garden maintenance and tasting some of the produce they've planted. This summer's theme was Plant Families, and we covered 7 different ones that contain edible plant parts – from onions to tomatoes to mint. Every week there was something to taste, maybe vote on (which color of apple tastes the best?) Thanks to a TNCEP grant, the Extension was able to provide all the food tastings for 30 students each week.

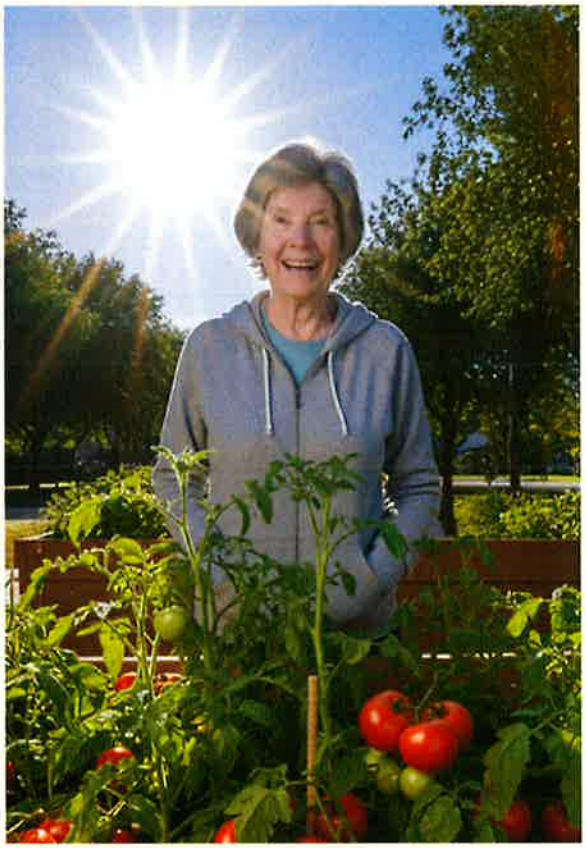
Fall – we are back to after school and just winding up lessons. We did a fun one making fairy gardens to enter into the Sevier County Fair – I took 34 of them over for judging! (Thanks to all the MGs that donated items!) Next was apple tasting (the younger club liked the golden delicious and the older group the honeycrisp), and last week was a lesson in pollinators, with some seeds going home and honey our taste-of-the-week. Our last class will be pumpkin decorating, as they planted mini-pumpkin seeds back in July. (Unfortunately something came and ate all the plants out of their garden bed last week! But, their mini-watermelons are still producing!)

It takes a village! - the Sevierville Garden Club has sponsored a children's garden at the Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains in Sevierville for over 30 years. Liz Ballard started the garden when her daughter was attending there. Liz was in the original Master Gardener class and used her knowledge teaching. Dixie Seaton stepped in to assist Liz with the garden, taking the lead as Liz retired. Keep Sevier Beautiful was already there with conservation classes and so a partnership was born. Two summers ago, Meg Curtis from the Extension offered the possibility of the TNCEP grant, and since the B&GC garden club was already using the Junior Master Gardener curriculum and registered with JMG, the grant was added as a great summer resource.

Adding volunteers Cat and Elizabeth Andrews from the Master Gardener club, weekly classes have grown into a high-demand activity for the B&GC students. We are so blessed to have that opportunity to teach nutrition, gardening and stewardship to the next generation of gardeners. Please step up next time a request comes for assistance, it's a great program that needs a lot of hands – and a lot of fun!

Dixie Seaton
Seeds & Sprouts JMG Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



I don't know about your garden, but mine fizzled out several weeks ago. Or, in some cases, I gave it a helping hand. I'm doing a few fall crops, some that I hope will make it into the winter, including snow peas, kohlrabi, and a few greens. But what kind of winter will we have here could be a big question mark due to the effects of the strong El Niño that is expected to last through February. According to the World Meteorological Organization, this could be a historic El Niño, bringing a wetter than average pattern for the entire southeast, along with surges of cold air. When this cold air meets moisture, we could be looking at sleet, freezing rain and possibly even heavy, wet snow. We may not be talking the Blizzard of '93 or the all-time low temperatures of 1985 that also brought over 20 inches of snow in the higher elevations. But if you want to plant a garden, you may want to focus on vegetables that are capable of surviving hard frosts such as greens (kale and spinach specifically), root vegetables like parsnips, and brassicas such as cabbages and Brussels sprouts.

Also, don't forget about garlic, which thrives in winter. In fact, the optimum planting time is between Halloween and Thanksgiving. So get your garlic ordered while supplies are still available (they sell out fast at some of the larger suppliers). Here in East Tennessee, we rarely have temperatures too cold for garlic because it's hardy to -30°F. Harvest time is usually late spring/early summer, and as long as you have nitrogen-rich soil, garlic can be pretty much "set and forget". If we do get a really wet winter, you may need to protect your plants from standing water and potential rot. A loose coating of breathable mulch (2 t 4 inches) can help. The top three cold hardy varieties are Music, Chesnok Red, and German Red, all hardneck varieties.

Also remember that fall is the optimum time to plant many trees and shrubs. The cooler air, coupled with the warmer soil, can help roots grow stronger before they have to deal with the stressors of summer heat. Maples, Ginkgo, Eastern Redbud, and Oak are among the best trees to plant now. Fruit trees such as apple, persimmon, and pear trees are also best planted in fall, along with fruiting shrubs like blueberries, elderberries, raspberries, and serviceberries. I have my red currant bushes on order and will be container planting them this year. Hopefully they will grow as well as my container-planted blueberries have.

Good luck with your cold weather gardening or your prep for spring. It will be here before we know it.

OCTOBER MEETINGS & EVENTS

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Monthly Meetings:

Monday, October 19th, 6:00 pm.

Monday, November 16th, 6:00 pm

November Board Meeting:

Monday, November 16th, 5:00 pm

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.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- "Why Fall is for Planting" program and seed swap, Tuesday, October 13th, 4:30 to 6 p.m. at Kodak Library. No cost. Contact Cat for more details.
- Smoky Mountain NatureWalk Group, Friday, October 16th, led by MG intern (and former NPS Ranger) Deb Troutman. Husky Falls, 4 miles roundtrip. Meet at Elkmont at 8:30 a.m. No cost. Contact Cat for more details, or to register. Carpool option available.
- Save the Date: Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027. LeConte Center.
- 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.
- Roane County Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn Series Replays, https://mgroanecounty.org/

Volunteer Opportunities

October 2026

- **Senior Center Friends in the Garden Work Day:** Thursday, October 1, 9:00 am
- Boys and Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains Junior Master Gardeners: Tuesday, October 6th, 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Contact Dixie Seaton at 615.498.0340 or tdseaton69@gmail.com for more information.
- **Demo Garden Work Day:** Monday, October 12th, 9 am.
- **Smoky Mountain NatureWalk Group:** October 16th, led by MG intern (and former NPS Ranger) Deb Troutman. Husky Falls, 4 miles roundtrip. Meet at Elkmont at 8:30 a.m. Contact Cat for more details, or to register. Carpool option available.
- **Senior Center Friends in the Garden:** Friday, October 16th, 10:00 am (organizational meeting to discuss next year's goals)
- **Senior Center Greenhouse Pot Cleaning and Potluck:** Tuesday, October 22nd, 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.
- **Pumpkin Lifecycle and Painting Workshop for 4th through 7th graders:** Friday, October 23rd from 5 to 7 p.m. Master Gardeners with a level two or three volunteer clearance are welcome to come help. Contact Cat for volunteer clearance, or additional details.
- **Master Gardener Table at Halloween Festival:** Friday, October 23rd (email Diane at dmccullen11@gmail.com if you want to help).
- **Wilderness Wildlife Week:** Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027. LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge.

Sevier County Area Master Gardener Association

August 2026 Financial Report



Financial Report

Darlene Kemp - Treasurer

AUGUST 2026



Item	Month Account Summary			Year Summary as of Month End				
				Budgeted		Actual		Funds
	Income	Expense	Balance	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Remaining
Beginning amount	as of 07/31/26		11436.43					
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	0.00	0.00	930.00	100.00	0.00	12.87	87.13
Demo garden	0.00	83.00	(85.00)	0.00	983.23	26.77	795.32	187.91
Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	900.00	0.00	975.00	0.00	975.01
Greenhouse	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00	0.00	297.62	2.38
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	466.77	0.00	466.77	0.00
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: 08/31/26	$0.00	$85.00	$11,351.43	$5,630.00	$3,125.00	$4,471.02	$2,217.92	$1,882.08
Net Income			(85.00)		$2,505.00			$2,053.10

Treasurer's Notes

The August Financial Statement shows a continued positive balance. We have remaining in our budget $2,053.10. The overall budget balance is $11,351.43. We're doing great!

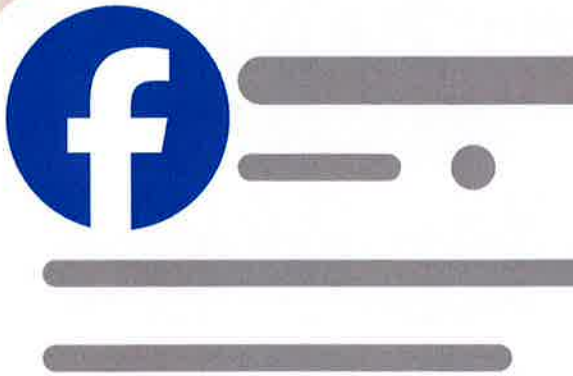
There was only one expense in August, for red cedar mulch. The mulch was used in the Demo Garden, for tours during the Sevier County Fair, September 1 - 7, 2026.

The Junior Master Gardeners budget is set and managed by the UT Ag. Agents. The current balance for this budget is $2,766.01.

Darlene Kemp, Treasurer

The Social Media Report

By: Darlene Kemp



Our Facebook site had a huge upswing in views the week of the Sevier County Fair. There were 13,110 views between August 18 – September 14 with most views being between Sept. 2 – 7, 2026. This is a 361% increase compared to the previous month.

What stood out this month was how many people viewed the Facebook posts who were not followers. There was 80% viewing from nonfollowers while followers reported 20% viewing.

Please continue to LIKE and SHARE the Facebook posts with friends and family. It will help our Facebook views continue to grow.



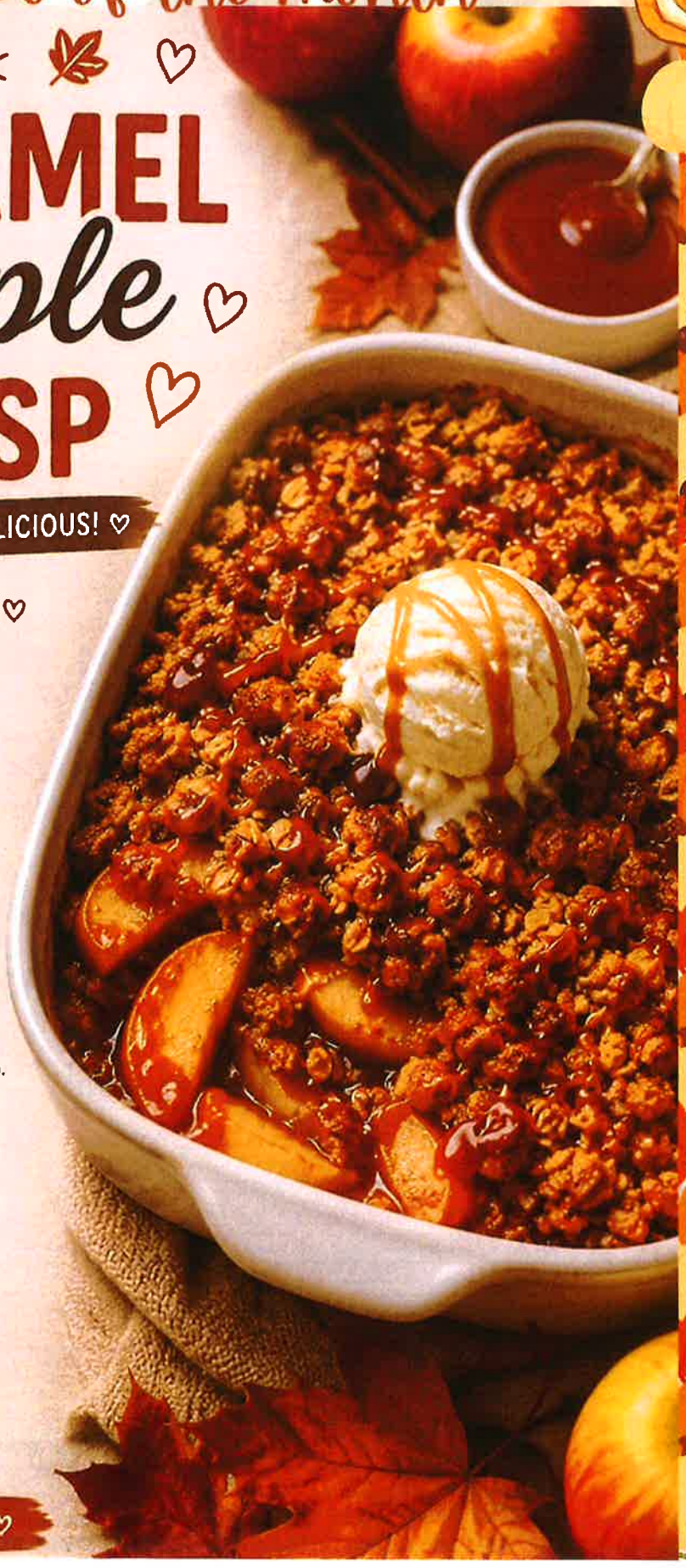


Recipe of the month

EASY

CARAMEL Apple CRISP

WARM, COZY & DELICIOUS! ♡



INGREDIENTS ♡

- 6 cups apples, peeled and sliced
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce (plus more for drizzling)

HOW TO MAKE ♡

1. Preheat oven to 175°C (350°F). Grease a baking dish.
2. In a bowl, toss apples with lemon juice, cinnamon and brown sugar. Spread evenly in the dish.
3. In another bowl, mix flour, oats and melted butter until crumbly.
4. Sprinkle the oat mixture over the apples.
5. Bake for 40–45 minutes or until bubbly and golden.
6. Drizzle with caramel sauce and enjoy warm!

PERFECT FOR FALL! ♡

SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

ROOTS NEWSLETTER: MONTHLY CONTACTS

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Greenhouse
Shauna Bayless

Greenhouse
Shauna Bayless

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