FALL

WINTER

ROOTS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
THE SEVIER COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
ASSOCIATION

November and December EDITION

SEVIER COUNTY AREA
MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

ROOTS NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER EDITION

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MASTER GARDENER CHRISTMAS PARTY AND AWARDS DINNER

LET'S PARTY!!!

It's difficult to believe it's already November, and getting toward the end of the SCAMGA year. We may still have a few work days, meetings, and other events, but the bulk of our work is done and it's going to be celebration time soon. And by "celebration", I mean our upcoming Master Gardener Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, scheduled for Monday, December 7th at the Sevierville Golf Club. Please arrive by 6 pm. This is always a fun-filled evening of good food, great fun, and amazing fellowship. If you've attended in the past, you know what I mean. And, if you haven't, I hope you will join us this year. Adult guests are welcome, and we aim to keep the costs as reasonable as possible so attendance is affordable for everyone. That said the golf club's costs have gone up Per person cost th, so the cost this year will be $30 (cash or check payable to UT Extension—Sevier County). Remember that the deadline for registration and payment is Monday, November 16th. If you are willing to bring a special dessert, please contact Patsy Farmer. These have always added a special touch to the end of the dinner.

The dinner is the "easy" part, but the awards rely on each of us ensuring that we have all our information logged into the UT Master Gardener database so we can recognize master gardeners who have attained milestones during the year related to number of service hours, number of CEU hours, and number of years as an active master gardener. Be sure to log your hours for 2026 on or before the Monday, November 16th deadline. There are also special awards given to recognize outstanding members for the year. Please submit your nominations for the following special awards to Cat Lawson before Monday, November 16th:

Educator of the Year
Youth Educator of the Year
Dub Julian Master Gardener of the Year
Teamwork Award
Community Service Award

We also will be playing bingo for special prizes crafted by our members. If you have a prize to donate, please contact Angela Myers no later than Monday, November 16th...
If you have questions about the dinner, please contact Patsy. We hope you will join us to help round out the 2026 SCAMGA year with a fun celebration.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



As this will be my last column as president, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication during 2026. We have accomplished a lot this year, including a successful plant sale, welcoming a new master gardener coordinator, hosting the largest intern class since 2016, winning several state awards at the TEMG conference, and reaching a lot of our community through master gardener events and the county fair, among other things that I'm probably forgetting. Thank you to all our wonderful project chairs, many who have served in those roles for several years. Thank you to those of you who stepped into new roles this year, some that you may not have initially felt comfortable with. I also want recognize a couple of people who stepped up to cover vital positions that were vacated during the year.

Thank you to Karen Hall for stepping in as Demo Garden project coordinator when Diane had to step away, as well as George Hinds-Glover who agreed to take on the newsletter editor duties. I also want to recognize everyone who pitched in to make the plant sale a success after Diane was called out of town unexpectedly at the last minute. As you know, we have decided to revamp the plant sale committee concept to share the load of our annual major fundraiser.

Last, but definitely not least, I need to give a shout out to our outstanding 2026 Executive Board. Patsy, Shauna, Darlene, and Steve have stepped up in so many ways behind the scenes and out front to make this year successful for our organization. Whoever takes over as 2027 president will have an amazing foundation to build on for the future.

It's been my honor to serve again as president, and I know we will have a successful 2027.

SEVIER COUNTY AREA MASTER GARDENER

Now Accepting Applications for the 2027 Intern Training Class!

CLASSES MEET EACH TUESDAY

February 2nd through April 27th, 2027
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sevier County Extension Office

Training will follow a "flipped classroom" format, meaning participants will review University materials at home before class. Our in-person sessions will focus on hands-on learning, on learnings, discussion, and occasional off-site field trips.

REGISTRATION: $175
(Includes course materials, the Master Gardener Handbook, and additional resources)

DEADLINE: Applications must be received by January 15, 2027.

SCHOLARSHIPS: A limited number of scholarships are available for those with demonstrated financial need.

GET INVOLVED! Anyone who is interested in teaching portions of the class, or helping conduct games, make snacks, or the like, let me know. I am working now to plan lectures and activities.

APPLICATIONS: Packets are available online or in-office. If you know anyone with questions, send them my way!

Thanks everyone,

Cat

Volunteer Opportunities

November & December 2026

- Senior Center Friends in the Garden Christmas Tree Decorating, Monday, November 30th at 10 am.
- Demo Garden Workday, Monday, November 9th at 9 am.
- Christmas for the Birds, Senior Center, Thursday, December 17th at 10 am
- Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027 at LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge.
- SAVE THE DATE: Tennessee Tree Day, Friday, March 19th, Extension Building (setup day Thursday, March 18th).
- SAVE THE DATE: Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, Saturday, April 24th at 10 am to 2 pm at the Extension Building.

Meetings and Events

November & December 2026

- November Board Meeting, Monday, November 16th at 5:00PM
- Monthly Meeting, Monday, November 16th at 6:00PM
- SCAMGA Christmas Party and Awards Dinner, Monday, December 7th at 6:00PM at Sevierville Golf Club.
- January Board Meeting, TBA
- January Monthly Meeting TBA
- Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027, at The LeConte Center.



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES





- Maple School, UT Extension, Sullivan County, Friday and Saturday, November 13th,3 to 5 pm and 14th, 8:30 am to 5 pm; learn to produce your own maple syrup at this hands-on learning opportunity. Cost $50; for details or to register, go to https://tiny.utk.edu/MapleSchool

- Wilderness Wildlife Week, Monday through Thursday, January 4th through 7th, 2027 at The 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/

- Still looking for CE hours? Check out the weekly Joe Gardener Podcast with host Joe Lamp'l at https://joegardener.com/podcasts/.

Master Gardeners' Financial Report

FINANCIAL REPORT

Darlene Kemp – Treasurer | September 2026

SEPTEMBER UPDATE

September had only one small expense: an item for the Demo Garden costing **$10.47**.

2026 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Remaining Budget: **$1,871.61**

Net Income: **$2,042.63**

University of Tennessee Total: **$11,340.96**

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

As we plan for the upcoming year, please suggest needed items or services for the Demo Garden, the Greenhouse, and/or the Master Gardeners program so we can estimate the cost. If the cost is high, we can increase our budget using savings held with the University.



Darlene Kemp, Treasurer

The Social Media Report

By: Darlene Kemp

During the month of September, we had 15,980 views of our posts! Wow! Our views were up 700%! Why, you ask? It was because of the postings of the county fair. People enjoyed seeing the photos of what was happening at the fair.

Beginning in October, to be in compliance with new University of Tennessee policy, photos and articles will have references listed. This documentation will show any reviewer that AI (artificial intelligence) was not used in the posting. No copyright and no plagiarism will occur.

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The Pilgrims: Their Challenges, Travel, and Advice for Gardening

Presented by Master Gardeners, Leo and Linda Lubke.

This topic is especially relevant as we begin to celebrate Thanksgiving and think about the Pilgrims and their lives over 400 years ago. Lessons they learned in planning their gardens may be useful to us as we start as fob start planning for next year's gardens.

A 1-Hour PowerPoint Presentation

Guests are invited!

RECIPE of the MONTH

FALL / WINTER EDITION

ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH & SAGE SOUP

Prep: 15 mins | Cook: 30 mins | Serves: 4-6



INGREDIENTS

- 1 large butternut squash (peeled & cubed)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- Handful of fresh sage leaves
- 1/2 cup heavy cream (optional)
- Salt, pepper, and nutmeg to taste

METHOD

1. Toss squash in olive oil, salt, and pepper; roast at 400°F (200°C) for 25 mins until tender.
2. Sauté onion, garlic, and sage in a large pot until fragrant.
3. Add roasted squash and broth; bring to a boil, then simmer for 10 mins.
4. Blend until smooth, stir in cream and a pinch of nutmeg, and serve warm.

SCAMGA Monthly Meeting

October 19, 2026

The program "Heirlooms" was presented by Donna Stinnett, Steve Greenwell and Clive Valentine.

Call Meeting to Order-Meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m.

Secretary's Report-September 2026 minutes were published in the October newsletter and were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Report-Expenses for September were $10.47. The remaining amount in the 2026 budget is $1,871.61. Net income was $2,042.63. Our overall total is $11,340.96. It was suggested that we start looking at needs for the Demo Garden, Greenhouse and other programs and get with Darlene for budgeting help.

Committee Reports

November Program-"The Pilgrims" will be presented by Leo and Linda Lubke.

Demo Garden-Work session on November 9 at 10 a.m. Karen Hall reported that 1,200 pavers were moved to the Demo Garden and will be used around the shed. The leak in front of the shed is still there. She asked for donations of TREX decking to use in replacing the shed ramp, help with laying the pavers, and someone to learn how to operate the irrigation system.

Greenhouse-No report.

Senior Center-Lynn said the pot washing was cancelled, but the covered dish lunch will still be October 22 at 10 a.m. at Glenna's. On November 11, they will decorate the Christmas tree at 10 a.m. and on December 17, 10 a.m., they will hold Christmas for the Birds. On November 2, 10 a.m., they will plant bulbs to see if they will be ready for the spring sale.

Social Media-Darlene said that activity was up 700% because of the fair. Postings will look different because of new UT AI rules. Darlene is stepping away from Social Media. Kayla Lowe volunteered to take over.

Wilderness Wildlife Week-WWW is January 4-7. The course book should be out soon. Some classes can be taken for CEU credit. Classes and parking are free.

Newsletter-The deadline for newsletter articles is the Wednesday after the monthly meeting. There will be no December newsletter.

Christmas Party-The party is December 7 at the Sevierville Golf Club. Cost is $30 per person. Intern dinners will be paid for by leftover intern class fees. Interns will need to pay for their guests. Diane, Shauna, Angela, Lynn, Becky, Karen Hall and Karen Less will provide Bingo prizes. Angela announced that she has resigned as County Fair chairperson. chairperson.

Nominating Committee-Voting will be at the next monthly meeting on November 16. Darren has agreed to be the Member-at-Large to join Patsy as Vice-President, Darlene as Treasurer and Shauna as Secretary. There is still not a firm commitment for President.

Plant Sale Committee-Members: Karen Less, Shauna, Diane, Darlene, Monica, Paige, Patsy, Kayla, and Cat. Karen is chairperson, Shauna is vice-chair. The date for the sale is April 24, 10-2. Cat will conduct the next meeting of the committee on Zoom on November 11, 10 a.m. Members are asked to have seed suggestions into Shauna or Karen by then. Cat reported that the sale is on the Fair's calendar and we will be allowed to park customers behind the Extension Office.

Master Gardener Coordinator-Cat said that some people were having problems getting into the MG site and to let her know if you are one of them. The 2027 intern class will start Feb. 2, 10-2, and go for 11 weeks. Cost is $175. She also gave a presentation on the new UT rules for dealing with AI content in Master Gardener publications. The January meeting will be changed from the third Monday of the month because of MLK Day. The new date will be announced.

Old Business

Water Problem in Demo Garden-The leak at the wall hook up has been fixed. The cause of the leak near the shed has not been determined yet.

New Business

Intern Representative on Board-Cat suggested that an intern, either from the upcoming 2027 class or from the 2026 class, become a member of the board as a non-voting member or a voting member if the by-laws were changed. After discussion, it was decided that since the board meetings are open to all and that interns are highly encouraged to attend at least one board meeting as a part of their certification, it was not necessary to create a new board position.

Deadlines for Christmas Party Payment and Hours Submitted-Christmas Party payment must be submitted to either Darlene or Debbie Hurst by Nov. 16. All CEU and volunteer hours must be reported by Nov. 16 to be eligible for awards.

Announcements/Comments-Dixie reported that the Junior MG's is done for the year. She said Keep Sevier County Beautiful has planned for a new flower bed at the new Kodak Library and she asked for volunteers to help plant shrubs in the fall. Contact her for information. John, Shauna and Dixie will be serving as the By-Law Committee and will start after the beginning of the year.

Adjournment-Meeting adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Shauna Bayless, Secretary

SEVIER COUNTY AREA

MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

ROOTS NEWSLETTER: MONTHLY CONTACTS

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Junior Master Gardener
Tiny Tillers
Darlene Kemp

Greenhouse
Shauna Bayless

Greenhouse
Shauna Bayless

Tomato Seed Project
Patsy Farmer

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Wilderness Wildlife Week
Steve Greenwell

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