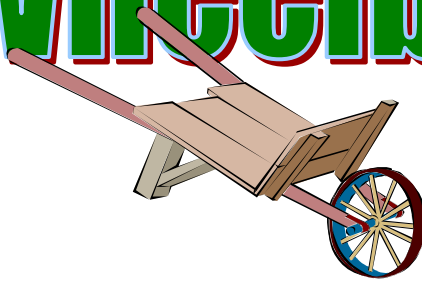


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

August 2012

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Homegrown Tomato Fest VIII

Our 8th Annual **Homegrown Tomato Fest** will take place Saturday, August 11, from 8:00 —11:00 a.m. at the Kingsport Farmers' Market, Center Street & Clinchfield Street in Kingsport.

This celebration of the juicy red fruit features tomato contests, free tomato tastings (including many heirloom varieties), free tomato refreshments, tomato-growing advice, and fun for the whole family. There will be also be activities for kids and culinary demonstrations.



Tomato lovers are invited to enter the Best Salsa Contest and to bring tomatoes to compete in the following categories: **Best Tasting, Biggest, Prettiest, Ugliest, Most Bizarre, and Best Dressed**. Admission is free and there are no entry fees. Entry forms may be downloaded from the SAPS website, www.saps.us or picked up at Downtown Kingsport Association (DKA) or Ward's Feed Store. Entries will be accepted from 8:00—9:00 a.m. for all contests. Winners will be announced at 10:00 a.m.

Can you help out? Contact Dennis Marshall at 288-3675 or dmarshall@chartertn.net. SAPS members are encouraged to bring tomatoes for judging and tasting and basil for tomato refreshments, and to volunteer to help with this fun event. (Master Gardeners can earn service hours.) Volunteers are also requested to bring knives for slicing tomatoes and spreading mayo, and cutting boards and trays for serving tomato sandwiches.

Homegrown Tomato Fest is sponsored by the
Southern Appalachian Plant Society and
Downtown Kingsport Association

August Events:

Thursday, August 9

10 a.m.-noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m.
"The Wonderful World of Succulents"
North Carolina Arboretum—Asheville, NC
Cost: \$18. Call 828-665-2492 for more info.

Sunday, August 19

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Asheville Botanical Gardens
"Invasive and Exotic Species" by Jan Kranylk
Cost: \$15. Call 828-252-5190 for more info.

Sunday, August 26

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Asheville Botanical Gardens
"A Botanical Garden Walk" with Dr. David Clarke
Cost: \$15. Call 828-252-5190 for more info.

September Events:

Sunday, September 16

2:00—3:30 p.m.
Asheville Botanical Gardens
"Pollinators in our Landscapes" with
Diane Almond



Thursday, September 20

SAPS Meeting—Design Ideas and Plant Combinations for Winter Gardens
Speaker: Cole Burrell
Location: Kingsport Renaissance Center

Cole Burrell is a garden designer, award-winning author, photographer, naturalist, and teacher. He grows hellebore species and hybrids alongside natives and other treasures in his garden in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Charlottesville, VA

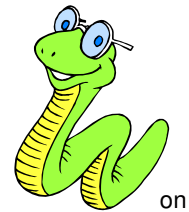
Thursday, September 6 — 7:00 p.m.

Herb Saplings Meeting — Exchange Place Vermicomposting Mini-Workshop presented by Ann Moore

Vermicomposting (composting using a worm bin) is a great way to keep recycling your kitchen scraps all winter long when other compost bins are less active. A worm bin is easy to make, takes very little space, and creates rich compost perfect for your herbs and other container plants. Learn more about earthworms, how to get started with vermicomposting, and join us following the discussion for a hands-mini-workshop to build your worm bin. Those participating in the workshop will need to bring:

- Two plastic, 12 gallon, storage containers with lids, these should be solid color not transparent.
- A week's worth of old newspapers if you subscribe; newspaper will be provided for those who don't
- If you have a drill with a 1/8-1/4 inch drill bit, please bring it; we can share these.

If you would like to purchase a starter pack of red-wiggler worms the cost is \$10, payable at the workshop but they must be reserved. (Purchasing worms is optional. You may also choose to collect worms from your own garden to get started, or purchase worms at a later date.) The workshop is free, but registration is limited to 20. Please contact Ann Moore, rhmoore@chartertn.net or 239-9071, by September 1 to register for the workshop or to place your worm order.



2012 MASTER GARDENER CLASS APPLICATION TIME

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Master Gardener? If so, please share the following information.

The 2012 Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener classes will begin on Tuesday, September 11. and continue through November 1. Most sessions will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Colonial Heights Baptist Church at Exit 59 off I-81 (with the exception of four field trips).

Tennessee Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who help the UT Extension Office provide information and educate the public in home horticulture. Prospective Tennessee Master Gardeners attend 40 hours of horticultural classes and the next calendar year are required to volunteer 40 hours of community service through the Extension Office, along with attending 8 hours of Continuing Education.

Contact Chris Ramsey, Master Gardener Coordinator/UT Agricultural Extension Agent, at 423-279-2723 to request an application. Please call ASAP if you are interested in this program. The fee for the program is \$165, which includes an extensive 800-plus page Master Gardener Textbook, the graduation dinner, your name badge, a soil sample, hand lens and other related costs. Two partial scholarships will be available.

SAPS Plant and Seed Swap

Saturday October 6, 2012

Please save this date for one of the best events each year, the annual SAPS Plant and Seed Swap, scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm at Rotary Park in Johnson City.

Our event features many choices of seeds, herbs, perennials, shrubs and trees and even garden art, books, containers, etc. that members bring to share and is highlighted by a delicious pot luck lunch. The silent auction offers a chance to bid on some of the rarer or more spectacular plants which other members have shared.

Now is a good time to start your preparations for the Swap to ensure that plants are properly established. Examples of some of the plants that have been shared in the past are: Chinese Flame Tree, Viburnums, Weigela, American Fringe Tree, chives, sage and other herbs, yellow primrose, Jacob's Ladder, Pine Knot strain of hellebores, and many other perennials.

If you have hesitated to attend this event because you felt that you do not have anything to share, please let this be the year to come to our annual event. We ask that you bring at least one item to share (plants, seeds, yard art, potting supplies ... even garden implements are all "sharable"). So mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun!

Free Seminars at Mize Farm & Garden

Saving Seeds

Presented by John Woodworth with Possum Bottom Farms

When: August 11, 2012

Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: Mize Farm & Garden in Gray

Extending Your Growing Season

Presented by Phil Ramey, Master Gardener

When: September 1, 2012

Time: 10 a.m to 12 noon

Where: Mize Farm & Garden in Johnson City

Extending Your Growing Season

Presented by Phil Ramey, Master Gardener

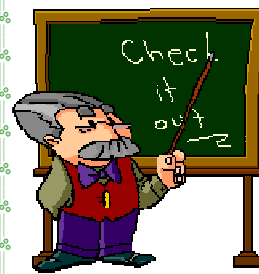
When: September 15, 2012

Time: 10 a.m to 12 noon

Where: Mize Farm & Garden in Gray

Seminars are free, but registration is appreciated.

Call 434-1800 to register for Johnson City seminars or 467-2300 for Gray seminars.



The Garden Professors' Blog

It's been called the "Best Hort site. Ever." It's a blog written by a group of professors from around the U.S, including Jeff Gillman of the University of Minnesota, Linda Chalker-Scott of Washington State University, and Holly Scoggins of Virginia Tech. These "Garden Professors" came together in July, 2009, for their first post because they felt a disconnect between academic horticulture and gardeners.

Garden Rant praises the blog: "When you think that there's a knowledge base like this available on the web, it's sad to consider that many gardeners rely on boring, generic advice from questionable "expert" sites. All of the GPs are lively, funny writers, especially when they take up fun topics like natives and invasives or the worthiness of compost tea."

For interesting, entertaining science based information on gardening, check out The Garden Professors blog: <https://sharepoint.cahnrs.wsu.edu/blogs/urbanhort>.



The Wheelbarrow

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Homegrown Tomato Fest VIII August 11th



"WEED AND FEED" at Netherland Inn Sunday, August 5th - 6:00 p.m.

Join us for an hour of weeding in the gardens at Netherland Inn. We'll "spruce up" the gardens we planted in April and have appetizers and wine afterwards. Bring an appetizer and SAPS will provide soft drinks, wine, plates, and napkins. This annual project helps the 1818 Netherland Inn in Kingsport, and SAPS receives meeting space for board meetings and a place to store our supplies. Master Gardeners get MG hours and it's a lot of fun!!! If there are questions, call Nancy Scott at 230-0654.

