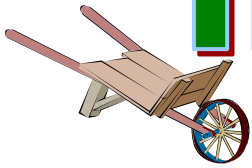


# The Wheelbarrow



[www.saps.us](http://www.saps.us)

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

March 2020

## 2020 SAPS Board of Directors

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## March SAPS Program

### SAPS 25th Anniversary Lecture

Native Plants in Context:

Ecology, Diversity, and Interconnection

**William Cullina**

F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum, University of Pennsylvania  
Celebrated author, lecturer, recognized authority on North American native plants

7 pm, Thursday, March 19

Kingsport Center for Higher Education

300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN

- ◆ No plant is an island: each exists in a context and community of trees and toads, rocks and rotifers, birds and bugs. Like human communities, this network of individual needs is supported by complex communication and mutualisms that we hardly understand. In this lecture Bill Cullina uses the analogy of human communities to explain the importance of relationships in the natural world and answers the age old lament “why is gardening such @#\*&@^ hard work while presenting a more sustainable (not to mention back-friendly) way to garden and live on this small planet.

### Special bonus program for SAPS members only

**"The Botany of Design," from 4-5 pm at the same location.**

- ◆ Using his latest book, *Understanding Perennials*, as a starting point, Bill Cullina tackles the thorny subject of garden design in a completely different way. In this fun and information filled talk he explores such things as the reasons for big leaves, variegation, red foliage and flowers and ways to create more satisfying designs without breaking the budget. He looks at life beyond the color wheel, the importance of healthy soil and reveals some of his best horticultural secrets while weaving together aesthetics, psychology, botany, and ecology into a fascinating one hour ride. It is a talk that beginning gardeners as well as seasoned pros will both learn from and enjoy.

## About our speaker



Cullina is a recognized authority on North American native plants, lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups, and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Growing and Propagating Wildflowers*; *Native Trees, Shrubs, Vines*; *Understanding Orchids*; *Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses*; and *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite*. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the American Horticultural Society's Professional Award (for outstanding public garden leadership), the National Garden Clubs' Award of Excellence, the Perennial Plant Association's Award of Merit (lifetime achievement, horticulture) and the Scott Arboretum's Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal (lifetime achievement, horticulture).

## Summer SAPS Garden Tours

Each summer, in June, July or August, when SAPS does not have regular meetings, we try to have visits to local gardens or nurseries. The planning for 2020 has begun. We invite you as members to offer suggestions for our upcoming tours. We love to have members share their gardens. Please contact Jane Mullins with your suggestions or if you are willing to offer your garden for a tour. We love all kinds of gardens! Call or text Jane at 423-737-7915 or email [janemullins2013@gmail.com](mailto:janemullins2013@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events:

### March 5

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. "Botanical Drawing" with Susan Scheer. Drawing from observation of a plant focuses your attention on the details. These details identify a specific herb. A great 2020 herb project! Free journal page available at meeting. Please bring an herb snack to share if you have time. All SAPS members are invited to attend Herb Saplings meetings.

### March 6-8

Organic Growers School Spring Conference.  
Mars Hill University. <https://organicgrowersschool.org/conferences/spring/>

### March 7

Weed Wrangle! Warriors Path State Park. Help make the park safer for native wildflowers and butterflies by removing invasive Garlic Mustard plants. Meet at the pool parking lot at 10 AM, and we'll carpool to the worksite. Come dressed for the weather and ready to get a little dirty. Bring some garden gloves if you have tender hands.  
Marty.Silver@tn.gov. 423-239-6786 c.423-609-0314

### March 11

Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop. 12 noon. UT-TSU Extension Sullivan County Office, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN. 423-574-1919

### March 11- 12

Growing Color Symposium. NC Arboretum, Asheville. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/lectures-symposia/>

### March 14

"Plant Natives 2020!" All-day Symposium and Native Plant Marketplace & Expo. 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Tennessee Valley Wild Ones. UTC University Center Auditorium, 642 E. 5th St., Chattanooga, TN. Saturday.  
<https://tnvalleywildones.org/2020/01/22/plant-natives-2020-symposium/>

### March 17

Gardening with Grains . Instructor: Brie Arthur. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. NC Arboretum, Asheville. Have you ever thought about growing grains as an alternative to ornamental grasses? Join the author and foodscape revolutionary to learn about the many members of Poaceae (grass family) that provide dynamic seasonal beauty and bounty in a class that covers designing and growing to harvesting and cooking. \$34 Member/\$44 Non. 828-665-2492  
<https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/FA19-Gardening-with-Grains>

### March 19

SAPS Meeting. William Cullina, Executive Director at the Morris Arboretum, celebrated author, botanist and recognized authority on North American native plants. Native Plants in Context; Ecology, Diversity, and Interconnection. 7 pm. Kingsport Higher Education Center.

Bonus Program for SAPS members only: The Botany of Design. 4 pm at the same location

### March 21

Gardening Seminar Series: Vegetable Gardens - How to grow things easier and learn those small nuances amongst the many plants (like tomatoes and corn). Presenter: Master Gardeners Ben Hunter and Vonda Little. 9 am—noon. Sycamore Shoals State Park Community Room. Free. 423-543-5808. [https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event\\_details/sycamore-shoals/#/?event=gardening-seminar-vegetable-gardening](https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/sycamore-shoals/#/?event=gardening-seminar-vegetable-gardening)

### March 26

Fantastic Fungi. Free Film Showing. 7-9 pm. Martha Street Culp Auditorium, D.P.Culp University Center, ETSU. Hosted by ETSU Depart. of Sustainability.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxABOiay6oA>

### March 28

The Power of Plants: How Gardening Captures History. Instructor: Bryce Lane. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. NC Arboretum, Asheville. \$34 Member/\$44 Non-member. 828-665-2492. <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/SP20-The-Power-of-Plants-How-Gardening-Captures-History>

### April 2

Herb Saplings meeting.

### April 4

Spring Spectacular Plant Sale. UT Gardens Knoxville. 9 am to 2 pm.

UT Arboretum Society Plant Sale. 9am - 2 pm. UT Arboretum, 901 South Illinois Avenue (State Route 62), Oak Ridge. Large and varied selection of shrubs, trees, native plants, perennials, annuals, and edibles, (865) 483-7277.  
<https://utarboretumsociety.org/rsvpmaker/spring-plant-sale/>

### April 16

SAPS meeting. Pocket Gardens - The Use of Native Plants in Small Spaces. Lisa Wagner, naturalist, plant ecologist, and former Director of Education at South Carolina Botanical Garden, Clemson. 7 pm. BrightRidge Auditorium.

### April 17-18

Mid Atlantic Garden Faire. Abingdon, VA.  
<http://www.gardenfaire.net/>

### April 25-26

Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair. 4812 Orebank Rd, Kingsport. <https://www.exchangeplace.info/>

## *Native Plants for Tennessee*

<https://tynnativeplants.wordpress.com/>

### *Hardhack Steeplebush*

*Spirea tomentosa*

Full sun; wet to medium moisture level; best in not too rich soil and grows in medium loams to fine sands, silt loams, wet clays, organic peats and mucks; moderately acid pH.

2-5 feet height by 2-5 feet spread; blooms July to September; pink to rosy purple flowers; dark red to chocolate brown seed capsules arranged in groups of 5 and persisting until late March.

Growth Rate: Fast. Spreads by suckering.

Maintenance: Occasional disease and insect problems. Easy to grow. Hard prune every few years when plant is dormant.

Propagation:

Easy from cuttings or from seed



### **2020 Green and Growing Seminars**

Green and Growing lunchtime gardening seminars, will be presented from 12 noon to 1 p.m. on Thursdays in March at the Kingsport Public Library Mead Auditorium. These free talks are sponsored by Keep Kingsport Beautiful and Kingsport Public Library and no registration is required.

The seminar topics are:

March 5 - "Hot Garden Trends for 2020" Roy Odom, horticulturist and Times-News columnist.

March 12 - "Dobyns-Bennett FFA Program & Sales" Kerrie Sluder, agriculture teacher/FFA advisor.

March 19 - "Edible Landscaping" Christy Shivell of Shy Valley Farm Studio & Garden

March 26 - "Seed Saving & Heirloom Vegetables" John Woodworth of Opossum's Bottom Farm

## **SAPS Plant Distribution**

### **March**

#### **Carex oshimensis EverColor 'Everillo'**

Again this year there is another benefit of SAPS membership. Fifty plants will be available to members at each of the March, April and May meetings - a different species each month - and bulbs at a fall meeting. In 2017 SAPS began offering members the opportunity to get a great perennial at 4 meetings during the year. The idea of the giveaways is to encourage members to come early and visit with others SAPS, while also spotlighting some terrific lesser known varieties. The giveaway is for SAPS Members ONLY (one plant per household); first-come, first-served. We'll have an updated membership list on hand.

Sedges are grass-like plants, mostly preferring sites with moist, rich soil. This selection from the Evercolor® series forms a cascading mound of bright, lime-green leaves that turn yellow-gold as they mature. Flowers are insignificant.



A choice plant for edging, or in the rock garden. If the tips of the leaves get wind-burn over the winter, they may be trimmed with scissors in the spring. This is a well-behaved plant. Clumps may be divided in early spring. Tolerates dry shade with occasional watering. Evergreen. Easy care.

## *Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair - Help Wanted*

The 36th annual Spring Garden Fair is Saturday, April 25, from 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday, April 26, from 12 - 5 pm at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road, Kingsport. Thousands of plants will be for sale with an emphasis on natives, herbs, and heirlooms, along with garden accessories and related crafts. The Fair will also feature garden experts, children's activities, music and food, as well as demonstrations of springtime activities on an 1850s farm. Exchange Place has a core group of experienced volunteers organizing the Fair, but we would love fresh input from other gardeners. If you would like to help on the SGF committee we welcome your ideas and skills. If you can spare any time during that weekend to help with set up, hospitality, children's activities, parking, clean up, etc., we would be grateful. To volunteer or for more info please contact Joy Moore [jnmoore@embarqmail.com](mailto:jnmoore@embarqmail.com) or 423-348-6572. This year the Overmountain Weavers Guild will hold a **Baa...ck Porch Sale** of household items, books, tools, and plants (no clothing) with proceeds going to feed the farm's animals and to restoration efforts. Items may be dropped off at Exchange Place any Tuesday morning 10 - 12 or on Friday, April 24. For more info contact Jean Green ([gardenergreen@gmail.com](mailto:gardenergreen@gmail.com)) or Dotie Biggar ([dbiggard@gmail.com](mailto:dbiggard@gmail.com)).

# Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

If you are looking to create new beds for ornamentals or vegetables - this is the time. Dig out existing plants and cover the newly bare ground with a loose mulch such as pine straw. Think about creating a small meadow consisting of native flowers and grasses for pollinators and birds. One supplier that has caught my interest is Prairie Moon Nursery, ([www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com)).

March is the time to put seeds of carrots, peas, radish, spinach and turnips in the ground. You can plant pansies, snapdragons, calendula during March.

At the end of March you can sow seeds of cilantro and leaf lettuce. You can put out transplants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, onion sets and onions almost any time in March. This also the time to start Swiss chard, eggplant, tomato and pepper seeds indoors.

You may have noticed that in the last several months our speakers have in one way or another been promoting an emphasis on perennials, natives, or gardening for wildlife including birds and pollinators. As gardeners we can make

a positive impact to counter the loss of habitat and ecosystems due to urbanization, deforestation, and agricultural practices that focus on monoculture. Additionally if you grow vegetables and fruits you help reduce Greenhouse emissions.

I recently read an article that for many of the foods that we purchase the energy used to grow, protect from pests, provide fertilizer, process, and transport, etc takes more than 50 times the energy that we gain from eating it to produce and get it to our local grocery store. Think about how much energy must be needed to grow, process, package and transport those blueberries from Chile, those bananas from Guatemala, the coffee from Brazil etc,. Study the package next time to see where the food was produced. How much of what you ate today came from the Western states or from other countries? Please consider growing your own, supporting community gardens as well as supporting local farmers by buying your food at the local farmers market.

## Reminder

Your 2019 Discount Vendor Card expires at the end of February. If you haven't already done so, be sure to renew to get the 2020 card.

### Southern Appalachian Plant Society

#### 2020 Membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Preference for The Wheelbarrow  digital issue or  paper copy

Mark X in boxes that apply:

I am paying \$20 for my annual membership  
(member & spouse). \_\_\_\_\_

I am further supporting SAPS programs and  
activities with an additional tax-deductible  
donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_

I am providing a \$20 gift membership to the  
person(s) whose membership data is attached  
to this form. \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check (payable to SAPS) for the total of your membership, donation, and gifts, along with this form to:

**Charlene Thomas, SAPS Membership Chairman**  
**305 Meadowview Lane, Unicoi, TN 37692**