

The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

February 2014

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Better Vegetable Varieties for Northeast Tennessee / Southwest Virginia Gardeners



*Presented by Dr. R. Allen Straw
Area Specialist in Small Fruits and Specialty Crops
Virginia Cooperative Extension*

**Thursday, February 20—7:00 p.m.
Johnson City Power Board
2600 Boones Creek Road (Hwy 354)
Johnson City**

Dr. R. Allen Straw will focus on promising vegetable varieties that perform well in the Southern Appalachian Region. He will discuss the characteristics of these new varieties— improved yields, high quality and disease-resistance. Attention will also be given to new and potential production practices that may increase the yield and quality of the harvested product.



Come and hear this highly respected and knowledgeable plant scientist who is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

February Events:

Saturday, February 1—10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Raised Bed Gardening

Sycamore Shoals State Park, Elizabethton

Presented by Master Gardener, Ben Hunter.

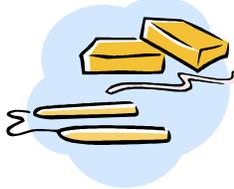
Free and open to the public. Reservations at 423-543-5808.

Thursday, February 6 — 6:30 p.m.

Herb Saplings Meeting — Exchange Place

Bayberry! *Speaker:* Emily Lachniet, Educational Outreach, ASD (Appalachian Sustainable Development).

Emily will talk about the bayberry plant and traditional uses. The group will be invited to make a bayberry taper candle to take home (\$3 requested to help cover supplies). Bring an herbal snack to share if you can!



Saturday, February 8—10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Knoxville Bonsai Society's 4th Annual Winter Bonsai Display, Knoxville Botanical Garden. Free.

info@knoxgarden.org

Friday, February 14—Monday, February 17

17th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

Help provide a real-time snapshot of bird populations.

www.birdcount.org.

March Events:

Saturday, March 1—10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Vegetable Gardening

Sycamore Shoals State Park, Elizabethton

Presented by Master Gardener, Ben Hunter.

Free and open to the public. Reservations at 423-543-5808.

Thursday, March 6 — 7:00 p.m.

Herb Saplings Meeting — Exchange Place

With Community Herbalist, Sandee Cook.

Thursday, March 20 — 7:00 p.m.

SAPS Meeting

Kingsport Renaissance Center

Butterflies of Tennessee with Rita Venable



Garden Volunteer Orientation Sessions at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, is seeking more volunteers interested in establishing and maintaining gardens at the historic site. Volunteers of all skill levels and ages are welcome.

Orientation sessions are scheduled for Saturday, February 22, from 2-4 pm and Wednesday, February 26, from 10 am-12 noon. Registration for these orientation sessions is requested to ensure that enough materials are on hand.

For more information or to sign up for an orientation session, please contact Exchange Place at 423-288- 6071 or e-mail Christy Shivell at shyvalley@aol.com.

DR. R. ALLEN STRAW

February 2014 SAPS Meeting Speaker

Dr. R. Allen Straw is an Area Specialist in small fruits and specialty crops with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Stationed at the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Glade Spring, Virginia, he conducts applied research in vegetable and berry crops in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Allen was raised on a diversified grain and livestock farm in East-Central Illinois. He graduated from Berea College in 1985 with a B.S. degree in general agriculture. He then earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Tennessee. After 13 years with the Tennessee Agricultural Experiment Station, Allen served as the statewide commercial vegetable and strawberry specialist for the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service for five years. Now employed by VA Cooperative Extension, Allen continues to work with numerous vegetable growers across east Tennessee.

Gardeners as Citizen Scientists

Spring will soon be here and gardeners are eagerly checking out what's coming up and blooming in their yards. The USA National Phenology Network can use your observations to help compile data about changes in our climate. Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life cycle events (spring blooms, migrations and hibernations, etc.) and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate.

The USA National Phenology Network (USA-NPN), formed in 2000, brings together citizen scientists, government agencies, non-profit groups, educators and students of all ages to monitor the impacts of climate change on plants and animals in the United States. The network harnesses the power of people and the Internet to collect and share information, providing researchers with far more data than they could collect alone. The USA-NPN has plugged into people's connection with the seasonal rhythm of the world around them, by encouraging people to observe phenological events like leaf out, flowering, migrations, and egg laying, and by providing a place for people to enter, store, and share their observations in an online database.

The results can be startling: The 2,000 observers now participating in that network provided data that showed 2012, the warmest year on record, also saw earlier bloom time, earlier bud burst and the earliest last frost of the year. In the Midwest, spring was a whopping 21 days early. USA-NPN also works with researchers to develop tools and techniques to use these observations to support a wide range of decisions made routinely by citizens, managers, scientists, and others, including decisions related to allergies, wildfires, water, and conservation. If you would like to participate as a citizen scientist see <http://www.usanpn.org>. (adapted from their website)



And THANK YOU for the opportunity of editing *The Wheelbarrow* for the last two years. This is the final issue that I will be editing as I move on to the next chapter of my life. I have enjoyed my role as editor, but my role as parent, grandparent, and sister are now taking a bigger importance in my life.

I have enjoyed working with the SAPS board and I wish them and all SAPS members success with this fine organization. I would especially like to thank SAPS members Betty Adams, Jim Hill, and Joy Moore. Betty and Jim have been a great help with mailing out the monthly newsletters and Joy has assisted me by proofreading each edition before it "goes to press." They have made my job easier, and I am grateful to each of them.

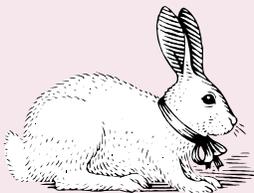
*Mary Zamiska, Editor
The Wheelbarrow*



Please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new SAPS newsletter editor, **Pat Westington**. Pat will begin her duties as editor with the March issue. Monthly deadline for articles will continue to be the 20th of each month. Pat's phone number is 423-328-7169 and her email address is pwestington@gmail.com.

Pat grew up in Bristol and left the area after high school "to have a life." In 2004, armed with numerous life experiences and successes, she returned to the Tri-Cities. Since moving to Unicoi, she has gardened, raised backyard chickens and recently became a beekeeper. She completed the Master Gardener classes in 2012 and has been an avid herb gardener for more than 30 years. An enduring interest for her since the early 90s has been desktop publishing. She keeps these skills updated through volunteer work and as a part-time church secretary in Erwin.

WHITE RABBITS



In *Alice in Wonderland* the White Rabbit says, "I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date." For SAPS members, **February 20th** is a very important date. To receive the March newsletter containing the new **SAPS discount card**, 2014 dues must be **received** by then. So don't be a White Rabbit ... hop on and pay your dues today by using the application form provided below. And keep in mind that your new discount card will be good until February 28, 2015.

Southern Appalachian Plant Society 2014 Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

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:

Jim Hill
SAPS Membership Chairman
4407 Greenspring Circle
Kingsport, TN 37664

UPCOMING SAPS PROGRAMS FOR 2014

Butterflies of Tennessee, Herbs, Sustainable Landscapes, Asheville Garden Tour, Summer Tree ID, Peonies, Gardens of the World ...and more!!!

Classes to be Held at Harvest of Hope Community Garden 130 Charlemont Street, Kingsport (Behind First Presbyterian Church)

- February 1 Building a Cold Frame, What to Put in and Why — 11:00 am (may be in doors)
- March 1 Building a Raised Bed, What to Use — 11:00 am
- March 8 Potato Planting, What to use, How to Space — 10:00 am

For further info, contact Master Gardener, Doug Hilton, at howlatthemoon1775@gmail.com or check the following website: <http://feedkingsport.org/harvest-of-hope-community-garden/>



The Wheelbarrow
Southern Appalachian Plant Society
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Happy Valentine's Day!

In Memory

It is with sadness that I inform you of the passing of our former SAPS *Wheelbarrow* editor, Laurie Feit. Laurie passed away on January 10th following an extended illness. With intelligence, creativity and grace, Laurie served as editor for 8 years, retiring at the end of 2011. The SAPS board is grateful for all her service to SAPS and for the pleasure of knowing and working with her.

Laurie's family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Kingsport City School Libraries or the Southern Appalachian Plant Society. If you wish to make a donation to SAPS in Laurie's memory please make your check payable to "SAPS" and mail to:

SAPS
Joy Moore, Treasurer
P.O. Box 87
Fall Branch, TN 37656

