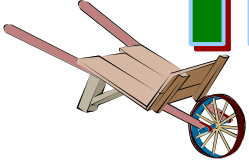


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

April 2025

2025 SAPS

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Breaking the Rules:

Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods

Larry Weaner

Landscape designer and founder of
New Directions in the American Landscape

Thursday, April 24, at 7 pm.

Kingsport Center for Higher Education
300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

Using native plants involves more than simply expanding the conventional design palette. With observation of how native plants develop in nature, new design implementation and management techniques emerge, many of which are diametrically opposed to traditional horticultural practice. This presentation examines how alternative approaches on everything from selecting, arranging, and spacing plants to the simple act of weeding can yield more easily maintained landscapes that express the beauty and ecological richness of our native landscapes.

Larry Weaner, FAPLD, founded Larry Weaner Landscape Associates in 1982 and New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL) in 1990. His nationally recognized work combines horticulture, landscape design, and ecological restoration and spans more than twenty U.S. states and the U.K. He has been profiled in national publications. His book, *Garden Revolution: How Our Landscapes Can Be a Source of Environmental Change* (Timber Press, 2016) received an American Horticultural Society (AHS) Book Award in 2017. In 2021 he received the AHS Landscape Design Award and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) Award of Distinction. Larry's approach to landscape design appeals to audiences nationwide. He has presented at American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) national and state meetings, Cultural Landscape Foundation tours, and the Garden Writers Association National Conference. He has spoken at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, the New York Botanical Garden, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Mad Gardeners Conference, the Millersville Native Plant Conference, the National Arboretum in Washington, DC, the Native Plant Center at Westchester Community College, the New England Grows conference, and the U.S. Botanic Garden, among many other venues. He is an APLD founding member, a former member of APLD's Environmental Committee, and an Affiliate member of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). He received his Associates degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Pennsylvania College of Technology.

This is an in-person presentation and will not be recorded.

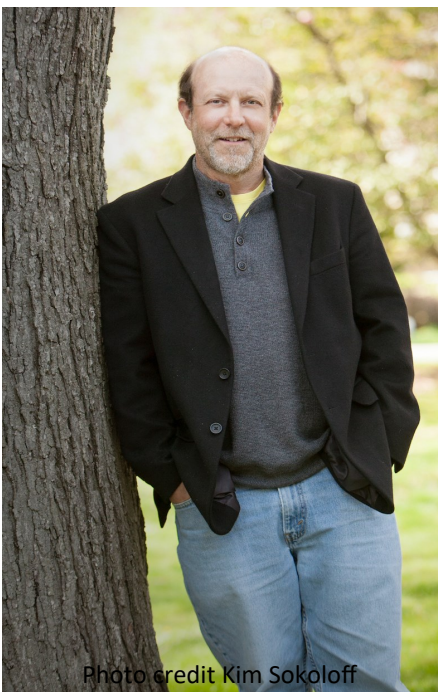


Photo credit Kim Sokoloff

Upcoming Events

April 1

Backyard Fruit: Less Common Fruits - Pawpaws, Elderberries, & Figs. 6 pm. With UT Extension Washington County Agriculture Agent Adam Watson. Zoom. Register: <https://tiny.utk.edu/lesscommonfruit>

April 3

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Camomile matricaria, International Herb Society's 2025 Herb of the Year, with Reeda Tate. Bring a herb snack to share if you have time.

April 5

SAPS Spring Plant and Seed Swap. Doors open 9:30 am. Memorial Park Community Center Johnson City.

April 5

Wild Weeds: Culinary and Medicinal Creations from Foraged Plants. 12 – 2:30 pm. Knoxville Botanical Garden. \$50. <https://www.knoxgarden.org/events/wildweeds>

April 5

Spectacular Spring Plant Sale. UT Gardens Knoxville, 2518 Jacob Drive. 9 am - 2 pm. Shop expertly curated selection of perennial flowers, houseplants, ornamental trees and shrubs of all shapes and sizes. For more info and an inventory list of plants that will be available:

<https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/locations/knoxville/special-events-knoxville/spring-fall-plant-sales/>

April 11-12

Mid Atlantic Garden Faire. Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon. Friday 9:30 am - 6pm, Saturday 9:30 am – 4pm. Plants, garden art, speakers, workshops, and more. \$6. Under 12 Free. <http://www.gardenfaire.net/>

April 11 - 13

46th Annual Spring Nature Festival Warriors' Path State Park. Talks and hikes on many nature topics, from geology to wildlife tracking, from night skies to plants and pollinators. Free. https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=46th-annual-spring-nature-festival-wpsp

April 12

Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Washington County. 9 am – 1 pm. Daniel Boone High School, 1440 Suncrest Drive, Gray. 423-753-1652. <https://www.tn.gov/environment/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-collection-event-schedule.html>

April 12

Annual East Tennessee Nursery Association Plant Auction. Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Visitor's Center, Elizabethton. 9 am – 12 pm. Unusual ornamental and native perennials, trees and shrubs will be auctioned. Doors open 8:15 am to view plants / register.

April 12

Spring Plant Sale. Knoxville Botanical Garden. 9 am – 2 pm. Featuring perennials propagated by the Garden horticulture team, as well as plants from Native Plant Rescue Squad, Riverdale Nursery, and Wilson Fine Gardens. Wonderful variety of native perennials, ornamental shrubs, and herbaceous plants. <https://www.knoxgarden.org/plantsale>

April 12

UT Arboretum Society Spring Plant Sale. 8 am – 12 pm. Vendors: Tennessee Naturescapes, Riverdale Nursery and East Fork Nursery of Sevierville. <https://utarboretum.tennessee.edu/spring-plant-sale/>

April 14

Spring Wildflower Walk. Warriors Path State Park. 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Led by Ranger Marty Silver. \$5. https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=spring-wildflower-walk-25

https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=spring-wildflower-walk-25

April 16

Spring Meeting: Restoration after Invasive Plant Removal. 11:30 am – 1 pm. Free webinar. Blue Ridge Prism. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-meeting-restoration-after-invasive-plant-removal-registration-1205696052349?aff=oddtcreator>

April 19

Spring Edible Plants. 1-3 pm. Asheville Botanical Garden. Indoor portion on plant ID and foraging best practices, then into the field. \$35. <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>

April 23-26

75th Annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage. Great Smoky Mountains National Park. <https://www.wildflowerpilgrimage.org/>

April 24

SAPS meeting. 7 pm. Larry Weaner, Founder of New Directions in the American Landscape, presents Breaking the Rules: Ecological Landscape Design and Traditional Landscape Methods. Kingsport Higher Education Center.

April 25 -27

35th Annual Spring Herb Festival. WNC Agricultural Center. Friday and Saturday 8:30 am. - 5 pm, Sunday 10 am. - 3 pm. Largest herb festival in the Southeast. Free. 828-301-8968. <http://www.ashevilleherbfestival.org/>

April 25-27

Spring Roan Mountain Naturalists Rally. Programs, hikes. <https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/>

April 26-27

39th Annual Spring Garden Fair. Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road, Kingsport. Saturday 10 am. - 5 pm, Sunday 12 - 5 pm. \$5. Under 12 free. <https://exchangeplacetn.org/>

April 26

Elizabethton HS FFA Greenhouse 2025. 9 am – 1 pm. Large student parking lot at EHS - look for "Elizabethton FFA Greenhouse" banner on fence. Cash or checks only. Amazing selection of vegetables, fruits, bedding plants, and hanging baskets! Plus student-built lawn furniture, raised garden beds, and planter boxes! Regular hours after opening: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 3 pm for rest of season. Contact jerry.agan@ecschoools.net or call 423-291-2773.

April 30

Bringing Back the Prairie: Native Grasslands in Tennessee. 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The Carriage House at Knoxville Botanical Gardens, 2649 Boyds Bridge Pike, Knoxville. Live Stream Available. Free. Melissa Hinten, Executive Director of Trees Knoxville, will explore the ecological connections between trees, prairies, and native landscapes. https://smokymountains.wildones.org/events/?wo_event_id=8269

May 1

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm. Exchange Place. Olivia Reed Herbal First Aid.

May 2 - 3

Spring Native Plant Sale. Botanical Gardens at Asheville, 151 W.T. Weaver Blvd., Asheville, NC 28804. Friday noon to 6 pm, Saturday 9 am to 3 pm Free.

<https://ashevillebotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/>

May 15

SAPS Meeting. 7 pm. Scott Beuerlein, Horticulturist at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, presents If Some is Good, More is Better, Plant Diversity Forever! BrightRidge Auditorium.

SAPS Spring Plant Swap: A Members Only Event

The Spring SAPS Plant Swap and Potluck will be on Saturday, April 5 at the Johnson City Memorial Park Community Center, 510 Bert Street, Johnson City, TN 37601.

To make things easier for members this year, we are asking for two volunteers with collapsible wagons to be there at 9:30 am to help members unload plants and food before moving their cars to the parking lot. **If you can help, please let us know at 423-737-7915.**

Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a serving utensil with your potluck dish. Potluck will start around 10:20. Plant Swap begins after the meal as directed by our President.

Because of limited space, this is a Plant Swap and Potluck only. No silent auction, garden art or garden pots, magazine, books, etc.

SAPS is providing a limited number of plants to give away. The choices this year are Bradbury's monarda and false blue indigo.

Exchange Place Spring Garden Fair

The 39th annual Spring Garden Fair is Saturday, April 26, 10 am – 5 pm and Sunday, April 27, 12 – 5 pm at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport. The oldest garden fair in the region and a favorite among gardeners, the festival will feature thousands of plants for sale - perennials, annuals, trees and shrubs – with an emphasis on natives, herbs and heirlooms (including a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes), along with garden related arts and crafts. Visitors will see heritage breeds of animals and spring activities on a mid-nineteenth century farmstead as volunteers shear the sheep, spin and weave the wool, cook on the hearth, and shape iron at the forge. Children's activities abound as volunteers help children create plant and nature crafts and learn gardening skills. Enjoy food on site or to take home along with live music from local bands. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. <https://exchangeplacetn.org/>.

Exchange Place has a core group of experienced volunteers who are organizing the Fair, but we always love fresh input from other gardeners. If you would like to help on the SGF committee we would welcome your ideas and skills. If you can spare any time that weekend to help with set-up, hospitality, take-down, children's activities, staffing the information table, parking, etc., we would be grateful. Volunteer time counts as Master Gardener hours. To volunteer or for more info, contact Joy Moore at jemmoor@gmail.com or 423-348-6572.

Mid Atlantic Garden Faire

Master Gardeners of Washington County Virginia will host some of the best "gardening speakers" from the University of Tennessee at the 2025 Mid Atlantic Garden Faire on Friday and Saturday April 11 and 12 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon, Virginia.

The featured speaker on Friday is Dr. Andy Pulte from the Plant Sciences department. Dr. Pulte is a world traveler and plant expert who will speak on Plants rated R for Reliability at 10:15 am on Friday.

Jason Reeves, who is the horticulturist at the West TN Ag Research Station in Jackson, TN, will speak on Saturday at 11:45 am on the topic of Container Gardening: Growing a Flower Garden in a Pot.

Michelle Reimert will talk about group garden travel and events with the Garden Gallivants, a fabulous garden travel group from Knoxville. Come take a look at some of the great things this group enjoys. Michelle will speak on Saturday afternoon at 2:15 pm.

The attached Garden Faire flyer has information to explore the great speakers at Garden Faire this year in addition to workshops and various garden related topics and events.

Hardy Camellias for Tri-Cities Gardens

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

In the Southern U.S., camellias are treasured for their showy flowers in the fall and spring landscape depending on variety. Their glossy evergreen foliage looks great all year long. Hardy varieties are now available, called "Zone 6 Hardy Camellias" (-10 to 0 °F). Usually Tri-Cities gardeners can raise these lovely camellias with little difficulty. Blooms measure 3-5 inches across with yellow stamens in the flower's center.

Depending on variety, the flowering period may last 4 to 6 weeks. Sudden overnight drops of temperatures often injures blooms that are currently opened and those due to open a few days. Flowers in tight bud often survive and open uninjured. Color choices include shades of red, pink, lavender, and white. Varieties vary in size, from 4 - 15 feet in height and 6 - 10 feet in spread. Spring pruning can alter plant dimensions.

Modern day zone 6 camellias are interspecific crosses between *C. oleifera*, *C. sasanqua*, *C. hiemalis*, *C. japonica*, *C. vernalis* selections. Some start blooming in early fall into very early winter with a second flowering in March and April. Petals are shed and require no dead-heading. In northerly climates, zone 6 hardy camellias should be planted and mulched from early spring up to Labor Day (and no later).

Camellia likes a well-drained, mildly acidic soil with adequate soil moisture. In northern areas these shrubs should be grown in a partially sunny location or one with full morning sun and afternoon shade. Established camellias are moderately drought tolerant; irrigate during prolonged dry spells in summer and fall. Fertilize camellias in early spring with a product labeled for acid-loving shrubs. Prune camellias after seasonal blooming is over or in mid-spring.

Reward yourself by planting three or more camellia varieties that flower during the transition period in early fall and spring when temperatures are seasonally mild. Here are some favorites:

Fall Bloomers: 'Snow Flurry' (white), 'Autumn Pink Icicle' (clear pink), 'Sweet October' (white / pink tinge), 'Winter's Joy' (pink double), and 'Long Island Pink' (light pink), 'Cleopatra' (soft pink).

Mid-March/April Bloomers: 'Pink Icicle' (shell pink), 'April Tryst' (deep red), and 'April Remembered' (pale pink-large flower), and 'April Rose' (deep rose pink).

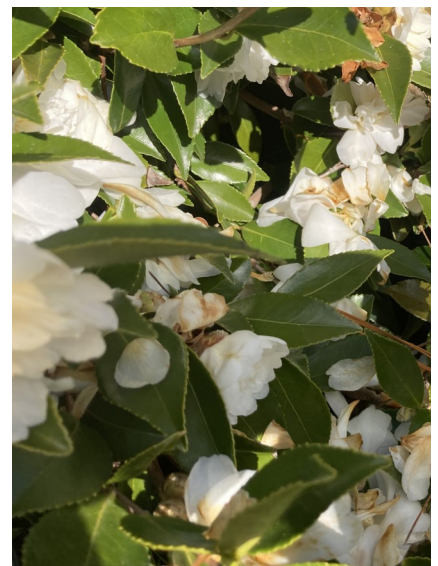
April Tryst



Pink Icicle



Snow Flurry



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

The favorite warm season vegetable for many of us is the tomato. If you start seeds for plants to be transplanted, they should be started indoors mid-February to early March for transplanting outdoors in late April or early May. As an experiment last year, I started some seeds using the technique called "winter sowing". I used one of the rectangular plastic containers which are used to sell salad greens and measure about 12"x6"x5" with a folding lid. The first step was to make some holes in the bottom for draining and on the lid to allow in rain. I put about 3.5 inches of soil in the bottom, placed some tomato seeds on the surface and covered them with .5 inches of soil. I placed the container outside in full sun during the first week of March and monitored it to ensure that it did not dry out. The seeds sprouted and were ready to transplant by mid-June. I was able to start harvesting tomatoes beginning early September. Some of the varieties I used are listed below. You may have to do some online research for sources. To be prepared next spring, order the seeds early and start them either indoors or using the "winter sowing" procedure.

Even if you don't have much garden space you can grow in any location with 8 or more hours of sunlight by using containers. As container grown vegetables are becoming increasingly popular, more varieties of dwarf forms have become available. When growing dwarf tomatoes, you should use 4-8 gallon containers or grow bag filled with good quality potting soil and/or compost. If space is tight, you can use 4 or 5-gallon containers but will need to ensure that you are watering and fertilizing sufficiently to support the plant. Indeterminate tomato plants will grow and produce fruit continually until frost. Determinate varieties are typically bushier, grow to a certain height, and produce all their fruit within a short period. Although most dwarf tomato plants are determinate, there are also indeterminate varieties. Only a few of these dwarf tomato varieties are sold at nurseries as either seeds or transplants. Usually, you must buy seeds online.

Below are some indeterminate dwarf varieties:

Adelaide Festival Dwarf Tomato, dark bi-colored tomatoes 8-10 ounces grows 2.5 to feet tall.

Barossa Fest Dwarf Tomato, large cherry size yellow fruit, 3 feet tall plants

Brandyfred Dwarf Tomato, dark pinkish fruits can reach one pound grows to 3 feet tall

Uluru Ochre, medium to large amber/orange/green fruit, matures in 65 days, 4 feet tall

Sleeping Lady Dwarf Tomato, 4-6-inch brownish flattened fruit, matures in 75 days

Some of the best determinate dwarf varieties are:

Dwarf Hannah's Prize, bright red fruit, 2-4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide

Dwarf Champion, almost pink fruit, 3 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide

New Big Dwarf, large pink fruit, 2-4 feet tall, 1-2 feet wide

Fantastico, a winner of AAS in 2014, grow in container or hanging basket, tasty cherry fruit

Patio Choice Yellow, 2017 AAS winner, 18 inches tall, 16-20 inches wide

Dwarf Beryl Beauty, bright green 3-5 oz fruit with pale pink bottom, 3-4 feet tall, 2-3 feet wide

It is possible and advisable to have companion plants even for tomatoes grown in containers. My favorite option is basil which repels aphids. Some believe it enhances the flavor of the tomatoes. Plant in the containers 6-8 inches away from the tomato plant. Nasturtiums will shield your tomato plant from aphids, whiteflies, and squash bugs. Sow the seeds in the container around the base of the tomato plant.

Tomatoes need a steady supply of nutrients but too much or a too powerful fertilizer will produce larger plants that do not produce many blooms. It is best to give your container tomato plants a light but steady dose of nutrients. I prefer to use an organic fertilizer following the directions on the package.

Hot Off the Presses - New Extension Publications!!

Selecting Grapes for Residential Production in Tennessee <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/W895E-Grapes.pdf>

Selecting Peaches, Cherries, and Plums for Residential Production in Tennessee <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/W895F-Peaches-Cherries-and-Plums.pdf>

Pawpaws for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/D234-C-Pawpaws.pdf>

Persimmons for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/D234D-Permission.pdf>

Figs for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/D234-B-Figs.pdf>

Elderberries for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes <https://uthort.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/228/2025/02/D234-A-Elderberry.pdf>