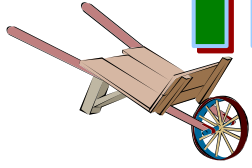


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

September 2025

2025 SAPS Board of Directors

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Soil- It's Not Just Dirt

Margery Winters
Naturalist and instructor at
Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton, CT

Thursday, September 18, at 7 pm.
Kingsport Center for Higher Education
300 W. Market Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

Rarely discussed by gardeners, soil is, nonetheless, the foundation of a garden. Each tablespoon of healthy soil is alive with millions of creatures, many working to keep your plants healthy. Learn about the different types of soils, the connections between soils and plants, how organic matter makes healthy soil, and why you should care about this intriguing ecosystem.

Margery Winters is a long-time naturalist and instructor at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, CT where she is delighted to be able to share her passion for earth science and nature with students of all ages. She manages the Nature Center's native plant gardens and is an advocate for the role of natives in our designed landscapes. She is a Master Landscape Design Consultant and past chair of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Landscape Design Study Program.

Margery serves on several land use boards in Simsbury, CT. She is chairman of their Inland Wetland / Conservation Commission, a member of the Open Space Committee, and serves as past president of the Simsbury Land Trust.

SAPS Plant Swap and Potluck

We're about a month away from our Fall Plant Swap and Potluck on Saturday, October 11 at the Jonesborough Visitors Center.

Start plants, divide plants, collect seed and bring them to share with others. September is a good time to dig and separate iris and other perennials. You may be planning to trim your collection of pots, garden items and deco as well as gardening books and magazines. Bring them to the swap because one man's trash is another man's treasure! However, any item that doesn't get chosen for a new home must return with the one who brought it.

Please bring your favorite potluck dish and serving utensil. We provide paper supplies, water and coffee. If you have questions, feel free to contact SAPS board members. Their info is on the website or in the Wheelbarrow.

This is a members-only event, but you will be able to pay your dues that day. More information will be available in the October newsletter.

For those who may have an early interest in the logistics, this is information on the venue.

The address of the Jonesborough Visitors Center is 117 Boone St, Jonesborough. It is also known as the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center & Old Town Emporium. It may be better to enter through the back door which is on the side of the Visitors Center facing the Post Office. You can drop your plants and food off close to the door and then move your car to the parking area on the other side of the Visitors Center.



Upcoming Events

September 4

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Sassafras, Herb Society of America's 2025 Notable Native Tree, with Sue Cadwallader. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

September 6

Butterfly Festival. UT Arboretum. Oak Ridge. 10 am – 1 pm. Opportunities to learn from the UT Insect Zoo, two butterfly tents, lectures; plus children's art activities related to pollinators. \$5 per car. <https://utarboretum.tennessee.edu/butterfly-festival/>

September 7

Plants Make the Garden. Unlock the secrets to a show-stopping garden with Amy Fahmy, licensed landscape architect with extensive horticultural knowledge. 2 - 4 pm. Botanical Gardens at Asheville. \$35. <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>

September 11

Hybrid Lunchbox Talk: From Soil to Sovereignty with Ashlie Thomas, Home Gardening Advocate. 12 – 1 pm. Hybrid - Virtual and In-person attendance options. NC Botanical Garden. Free; preregistration required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-d6c6b8e131104ef495e4a9407cf0077a

September 13

Sorghum Festival. Tipton Haynes State Historic Site. 8 am – 4 pm. Watch as mules turn the mill to extract the juice and then as juices are cooked down into sweet molasses. Biscuit and gravy breakfast with sorghum 8-11 am. Tour historic house and explore the cave. Local bluegrass and old time bands, local vendors, food trucks, Ford Model A car show. Admission with breakfast: \$10 adult and \$5 for kids under 12; without breakfast adults \$6 and kids \$3. <http://www.tipton-haynes.org/event/sorghum-festival-and-breakfast/>

September 13

Fall Plant Sale. Asheville Botanical Gardens. 9 am – 3 pm. The Botanical Gardens and numerous local plant vendors will offer a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flowers for fall planting. Rain or shine. Free. 828-252-5190. <https://ashevillebotanicalgarden.org/plant-sales/>

September 16

The Birds and Bees of Wildflowers with Kris Light. 7:30 pm. TN Native Plant Society free webinar. <https://tnps.org/event/seminar-kris-light-on-the-birds-and-bees-of-wildflowers/>

September 18

SAPS Meeting. Soil - It's Not Just Dirt. Margery Winters, Assistant Director at Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton, CT. 7 pm. Kingsport Higher Education Center

September 18

EcoBeneficial Landscape Strategies for the Climate Crisis presented by Kim Eierman, environmental horticulturalist and ecological landscape designer. 7 pm. Free. Wild Ones webinar. This webinar will be recorded and available to watch after the premiere. <https://wildones.org/landscape-strategies-for-the-climate-crisis/#register>

September 19-21

Fall Naturalist Rally. Roan Mountain State Park. Speakers along with a host of varied, family-oriented field trips, hikes and explorations in the state park, highlands of the Roan and surrounding area. All activities free for Friends of Roan Mountain, \$15 non-members. Children under 18 & students free. <https://www.friendsofroanmtn.org/>

September 20

Sassafras Moon Herbal Festival. Downtown Erwin, TN. 9 am – 3 pm. Free herbal festival, free classes, herbal vendors. <https://www.herbalachia.com/sassyfest>.

September 25

Virtual Lunchbox Talk: Living With, and the Natural History of, Bumblebees with John Whittlesey, Author, Retired Garden Designer. 12 – 1 pm. Zoom Webinar. NC Botanical Garden. Free; preregistration required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-e7ae66481d3f437f9c592c2b1033ac2b

September 26-27

NC Arboretum's annual Fall Plant Sale and Market. 10 am – 3 pm. 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville. Unique plants grown in the Arboretum's Production Greenhouse plus over 30 local growers and businesses. \$20 parking fee for non-members. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/fall-plant-sale-and-market/>

September 27

Smart Yards and Friends Festival. 9 am – 1 pm. UT Gardens, Knoxville. Free, but preregister for prizes. Explore the Gardens, Water Management, Composting, Native Plants, Lawn to Meadow, Gardening for Wildlife, and more. <https://tnyards.utk.edu/festival/>

September 27

Native Landscaping on Steep Slopes with Drew Lathin, owner Mountain Native Landscape Design and certified Blue Ridge Naturalist. 10 am. Asheville Botanical Garden. \$35. <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>

September 27-28

53rd Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival. Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm; Sunday, 12 - 5 pm. \$5 adults, children under 12 free. 423-288-6071 or <https://exchangeplacetcn.org/>

October 3

Wild Ones Tennessee Valley present Doug Tallamy, entomologist and author of Bringing Nature Home in free public lecture. 7 pm. UT Chattanooga. Registration required. <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/dwn7y8t/lp/6d3a55e1-d5ff-4603-a70e-d90c9febcb6a1>

October 4

Fabulous Fall Plant Sale. UT Gardens, 2506 Jacob Dr, Knoxville, TN 37996. 9 am to 2pm. Trees, shrubs and perennial flowers, wide variety of native plants, houseplants, cool season veggies and more. Free admission. <https://calendar.utk.edu/event/fabulous-fall-plant-sale>

October 11

SAPS Plant and Seed Swap and Silent Auction and Potluck (members only). Jonesborough Visitors Center. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival

Exchange Place Living History Farm at 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport will hold its 53rd annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 27, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, September 28, from 12 noon to 5 pm. This celebration of pioneer arts and crafts and the harvest season will feature artisans demonstrating and selling a wide array of traditional folk arts as well as autumn plants and seasonal crafts. The festival will also offer old timey foods, music, and children's activities as well as demonstrations of harvest time activities typical of an 1850's farm including sorghum making, blacksmithing and hearthside cooking. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, 423-288-607, epfestivals.gf@gmail.com or <https://exchangeplaceln.org/>. To volunteer to staff a shift at the SAPS/Master Gardeners table please contact Joy Moore at 423-348-6574 or jemmoor@gmail.com.

Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Household Hazardous Waste Collections will be held in NE Tennessee in September where gardeners can safely dispose of pesticides, fertilizers and other household hazardous waste.

September 6 – Greene County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 9 am – 1pm.

Greene County Fairgrounds, 109 Jeff Woods Memorial Dr., Greeneville.

September 13 – Sullivan County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 9 am – 1 pm

Sullivan Central Middle School, 131 Shipley Ferry Rd, Blountville. 423-323-6439

September 20 – Hawkins County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 9 am – 1 pm.

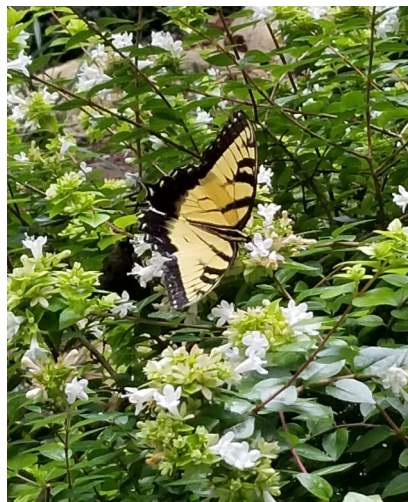
Hawkins County Recycling Center, 8580 Hwy 11W, Rogersville. 423-921-2465.

For more information, see:

<https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/solid-waste/hazardous-waste-management/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-program/sw-mm-household-hazardous-waste-collection-event-schedule.html>

It's Time to Order Spring Flowering Bulbs!

If you're looking for bulbs this fall, please check out Brent and Becky's great selection of high quality bulbs - both heirloom varieties and the newest introductions - and support SAPS at the same time. Go to <https://brentandbeckysbulbs.com/bloomin-bucks/> and choose Southern Appalachian Plant Society (SAPS) from the pull down menu, agree to the terms, then off you go to choose bulbs to beautify your garden, while SAPS receives 25% of the bulb total! If you'd rather call or mail in your order, you simply tell them you'd like to support SAPS when you order, or write in "SAPS" at the bottom of the catalog order form. Thanks.



Diagnosing Summer Tree Problems

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

When tree leaves turn yellow or drop off in summer, you need to figure out the primary cause(s). Often, symptoms are seasonal and not worth worrying about. Environmental factors such as extreme heat and lack of rainfall may result in some leaf drop and shoot dieback. However, leaf yellowing may be caused by pest feeding and foliar diseases.

In the summer, micronutrient deficiencies are not uncommon, particularly in high pH soils. Micronutrients include iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron, and molybdenum. These are in contrast to macronutrients -- nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), and sulfur (S), which are required in greater amounts.

A bag of fertilizer contains N, P, and K, and various forms of lime which supply key macronutrients of (Ca) and (Mg). Minor nutrients (micronutrients) are also essential for plant growth, but are available in the soil in very small quantities, particularly iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), and molybdenum (Mo). Applying too much may be a worse mistake than not enough. Micronutrient deficiencies may occur when a tree root system is compromised, such as by mechanical injury, disease, drought, or flooded soils. Because deficiencies cannot be identified simply by observation, it's advisable to have a soil test done when there's a question. Extension offices are a good place to start in a search for information.

Yellowing of late spring or summer foliage is typically a symptom of a minor nutrient deficiency in specific landscape plants. Examples of plants that often show signs of nutrient foliar yellowing (called "chlorosis") are pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), and manganese deficient red and silver maples (*Acer spp.*).

Deficiency symptoms are marked by pale green, yellow, and interveinal chlorosis. If the deficiency is not corrected, new spring growth is stunted, branches may die back, and the leaf edges (margins) and interveinal areas of leaves may turn brown. In severe cases, the entire tree may decline over several years and die.

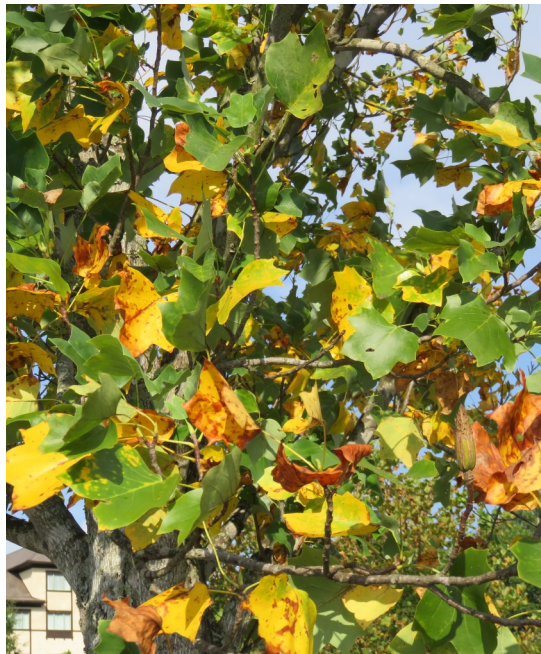
Water, either too much or too little, can cause foliar yellowing. The symptoms of under- and over-watering often appear similar, so a soil moisture check is the best first step. Over-irrigating will drain the soil of nutrients. Be sure that irrigation is directed to the tree's drip line (edge of the tree canopy) – that's where the tree roots are. Mistakenly watering right up against the trunk may lead to root and crown rot diseases.

Your tree(s) may have entered summer dormancy. High temperatures can result in heat stress that leads to foliar yellowing and eventual leaf drop. Once cooler temps and rainfall return, leaf loss will usually end.

River birch
Chlorosis



Tulip Poplar
Leaf drop



Rhododendron
Iron deficiency



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

We live in an amazing gardening zone for growing vegetables and perennials.

We enjoy mild winters and a relatively long growing season which is increasing because of the impact of global warming. Since 2020 I have had the last frost during the last week of March and the first frost as late as the first week of November. It varies year to year but the trend is toward a longer growing season. Leafy greens, such as spinach and kale, tolerate frost. The flavor of kale even improves after frost. Butterhead and romaine varieties of lettuce as well as arugula do very well in fall. Brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and Brussels sprouts) have varieties that mature and taste better in cooler temperatures. Root vegetables including carrots, beets and turnips prefer cooler weather and can handle mild frost. Mulch and row cover provide additional protection from frost. Radishes are so fast growing that when planted both at the beginning of September and at the end of September they will likely produce two crops. All these vegetables can be grown in containers if they get at least 6 hours of shade-free time every day.

During the first week or so of September, all leafy greens and root vegetables can be started by planting seeds. Brassicas will be most successful if done as transplants during this same time period. If they are protected by row cover, they can be transplanted at least two weeks later for harvest in the first weeks of November. Hardy varieties will survive under row cover and resume growing after mid-January. Carrots, parsnips, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and romaine lettuce planted in the fall can be harvested during February and March. Most online seed companies are set up to respond to searches for "fall and/or winter vegetables" to find the varieties they sell. Thyme, sage, parsley, and rosemary are perennial herbs that survive winter in our zone.

Autumn is planting time for spring flowering bulbs like

tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and a wide variety of others you can find at your local garden center this time of year. Warning: Deer enjoy tulips and squirrels and chipmunks often dig up and eat bulbs. If squirrels or chipmunks are a problem in your garden, cover the planted bulbs with a layer of chicken wire to protect them from being dug up. Another consideration is that some varieties of tulips will only last for about two years. Flowers that do well when planted in the fall include asters, chrysanthemums, echinacea, black-eyed Susans, sedum, and Russian sage. Ground covers such as creeping thyme, ajuga, and sweet woodruff are perennials to plant in the fall. Winterberry holly and Japanese maple are ideally planted in early fall by mid-October.

Remove annuals from containers and landscapes. By the time fall rolls around, it's time for the annuals to go and for pots to be stored away for winter. Preemptive removal of annuals can be a difficult decision, but dead annuals aren't attractive. Besides, if water collects in the soil in the winter and freezes, it may break the pots.

Take advantage of end of season sales on trees and shrubs at local nurseries and divide or relocate perennials in fall. It's best to give the roots at least six weeks to settle into their new home before the ground freezes.

Make sure vegetables and perennials get watered deeply but less often than during the heat of summer. Don't do heavy pruning of trees and shrubs until winter because they need their full growing season to produce the nutrients required to survive winter. The exception is that dead and damaged parts of shrubs can be pruned before winter takes hold.

Enjoy being able to work in your garden almost any time of the day during the fall instead of dealing with or avoiding the daytime heat and humidity of summer months.

SAPS Membership Renewal

The SAPS annual membership covers January 1st to December 31st. New memberships and renewals from September to the end of the year also cover the following year. The membership chairs are always available at meetings and Plant Swaps to accept renewals and new members. Members can also mail renewals to the membership chairs. In March members who are not current will be removed from The Wheelbarrow distribution lists. For those who come to the Fall plant swap it's easy to renew. The membership form to renew by mail is on the following page.

Southern Appalachian Plant Society 2026 Membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

For new and renewing members: I am paying \$20.00 for annual membership. This can be an individual or family membership.

With an additional donation of \$_____ I am providing gift membership(s) to the person(s) whose membership data is attached to this form. Each gift membership is \$20.00. Include complete membership information for each gift membership.

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

I choose to receive the online Wheelbarrow. (The preferred method of providing The Wheelbarrow is digitally. Those who are unable to receive it by email may have a paper copy mailed to them.)

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

Shawn Dougherty
911 V I Ranch Road
Bristol, TN 37620