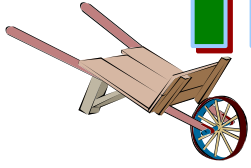


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

November/December 2025

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Native Species Diversity:

Practical implications of genetic variation for nurseries, landscapes, and gardens

Ian Caton

Owner of Wood Thrush Native Nursery

Thursday, November 20, at 7 p.m.

BrightRidge Auditorium

2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), Johnson City

We often hear that local ecotypes are best. We also hear that straight species are best. But what do these terms mean for design - especially when the nursery trade is not set up to account for these differences? Our opinions of a plant are often colored by our experience with the genetic type that is available in the trade, but the truth is that many of our plants are so much more than that. Even cultivars have informative stories to tell. This lecture will explore the practical implications of genetic variations, ecotypes, and cultivars as well as the real impact this can have on our expectations for how a plant will look, how it will behave in the landscape, and in some cases how it has the potential to cause harm to the broader landscape.

Ian Caton has been the owner/operator of Wood Thrush Native Plant Nursery (formerly Enchanters Garden) in Floyd, Virginia since March 2013. Wood Thrush Native Plants is a nursery specializing in the native plants of the Appalachian region including West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and North Carolina. A focus of the nursery is the introduction of uncommon and rare native plants which are underappreciated in the nursery trade. Previously Ian Caton was an employee of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, a landscape firm specializing in the use and promotion of native plants in landscaping since 2001. He has an ongoing relationship with the firm and its educational arm "The New Directions in the Landscape (NDAL)" program.

SAPS Speakers for 2026

January 15: Nancy Lawson, The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife and Wildscape.

February 19: Randi Eckel, On Beyond Monarchs and Honeybees – the Case for Diversity!

March 19: Lucas Holman, Vegetable Gardening – Cool Season Vegetables.

April 16: Kim Whiston, How to Successfully Grow Hydrangeas.

May 21: Jay Sifford, Rhodwood: Crafting a Dream in the North Carolina Mountains.

September 17: Garry Menendez, Landscaping with Tennessee Native Plants – Providing a Sense of Place.

November 19: Jason Powell, Petals from the Past – Exploring our Rich Heritage of Antique Roses, Heirloom Shrubs, Hard-to-Find Perennials and More



Upcoming Events

November 1

ASD Wildcrafting Workshops. Every Saturday in November. ASD Greenhouse, 17444 Singingwood Lane, Bristol, VA. Details at: <https://asdevelop.org/wildcrafting-workshops/>

November 2

Annual Jenny Elder Fitch Memorial Lecture: Nature as a Teacher – Grounding and Resilience in an Unsettled World with Teri Speight. 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. NC Botanical Garden. Hybrid - Zoom Webinar. Free; pre-registration required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-d9f3c70225a645e5909bbee9d952eaec

November 5

Planting a Four Season Cutting Garden. NC Arboretum, Asheville. 1 pm. \$48. <https://www.ncarboretum.org/event/planting-a-four-season-cutting-garden/>

November 6

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Herbal Crackers with Susan Scheer. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

November 7

How to Be an Invasive Plant. Free webinar sponsored by Blue Ridge Prism. 12 – 1 pm. Learn about the characteristics of invasive plants and how a species is added to the official VA Invasive Plant Species list. Those who register receive a copy of the recording. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brown-bag-webinar-how-to-be-an-invasive-plant-tickets-1740905979649?aff=oddtcreator>

November 8

Pruning for the Natural Gardener with Alison Arnold, former Agriculture Extension Agent, Master Gardener coordinator and Director of Horticulture at the NC Arboretum. 10 am – 12 pm. Asheville Botanical Garden. \$35. <https://ashevillebotanicalgardens.square.site/classes>

November 9

Hands-On Mushroom Cultivation Workshop with Rodney Webb of Appalachia Fungorum. 1 – 4 pm. \$45. Blackberry Blossom Campground, Unicoi, TN. <https://herbalachia.store/products/hands-on-mushroom-cultivation-workshop>

November 14-15

2025 Tennessee Maple Syrup Workshop. Nov 14 at 3 pm; Nov 15 at 3:15 pm. Presented by UT Extension Sullivan County and Lucas Wiggin, 140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN. \$25. This first ever Maple School in TN is a 2-day event and includes time in the field and in the classroom. Includes 2 meals and valuable resources. Registration closes November 5.

<https://sullivan.tennessee.edu/maple-school/>

November 18

TNPS Seminar: Growing Native Plants by Seed Sourced Locally with Steve Slack, owner of Keystone Flora Native Plant Nursery, Cincinnati, OH. 7:30 pm. Free. <https://tnps.org/event/seminar-steve-slack-on-straight-species-vs-cultivars/>

November 20

SAPS meeting. Ian Caton, Native Species Diversity: the practical implications of genetic variation for nurseries, landscapes, and gardens. 7 pm. Bright-Ridge Auditorium.

November 20

Living in the Liberated Landscape with Larry Weaner. 7 pm. Free Webinar hosted by Wild Ones National. <https://wildones.org/living-in-the-liberated-landscape/>

November 22

Annual SW Virginia Tree Syrup School. 9 am – 4 pm. Oxbow Center, St. Paul, VA. Registration Deadline: Nov. 20. <https://register.ext.vt.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?meth-od=load&courseId=2096181&selectedProgramAreaId=25576&selectedProgramStreamId=>

December 6

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road, Kingsport, 10 am - 4 pm. \$5, under 12 free. 423-288-6071 or <https://exchangeplacethn.org/>.

December 6

Adding Year-Round Interest and Colour to Your Garden. 11 am. SW Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon. Free. With horticulturist Snow Ferreniea. https://appalachianhighlands.wildones.org/upcoming-events/?wo_event_id=10403

December 15

Winter Tree Keys. 3:30 – 5:30 pm. Warriors Path State Park. \$5. Practice using botanical keys to learn the names of our native trees in winter by their bark, buds, fallen leaves, and more. 423-239-6786. https://tnstateparks.com/parks/event_details/warriors-path/#/?event=winter-tree-key-2025

December 16

The Light Eaters, a book talk with Zoë Schlanger. 7 pm. Free for Members of the North Carolina Botanical Garden Foundation, Sarah P Duke Gardens, JC Raulston Arboretum, Durham Garden Forum, and Durham County Master Gardeners. Non-Member \$10. Pre-registration required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-44978c6930994390b7df98f2868b8352

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place

Christmas in the Country at Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will be held Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Fresh greenery, wreaths and roping, unique folk arts and handicrafts, and traditional holiday foods will be on sale. The celebration also features demonstrations of winter time activities on the 19th century farmstead and hands on experiences for all ages. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12. For more information, 423-288-6071 or <https://exchangeplacetn.org/>. The traditional Yule Log Ceremony with carol singing around the bonfire and a cauldron of wassail, Exchange Place's free gift to the community, begins at 4:15 p.m.

Wreath Making Workshops at Exchange Place

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its annual Wreath Making Workshops on Tuesday, December 2, from 6 - 8 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 3, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Participants will learn basic wreath making techniques, the differences in the various boughs, how to embellish with natural accents, and will create a unique evergreen wreath to take home. Both beginners and experienced wreath makers are welcome.

All materials - a variety of fragrant greenery, cones, dried flowers, etc. along with wreath form and wire - will be provided. Participants should bring hand pruners and any extra materials or special decorations they may wish to add.

The workshop fee is \$40 and includes all materials and light refreshments. Space is limited. To reserve your place, first please check availability and then mail check payable to "Exchange Place" to: Joy Moore, P.O. Box 87, Fall Branch, TN 37656. Please include your phone and/or e-mail for confirmation. To check availability or for more information, email exchangeplace.edu@gmail.com.

2026 TN Master Gardener Classes

The 2026 Tennessee Extension Master Gardener Intern Training begins on January 27, 2026 and concludes May 12, 2026. To find an application, see the schedule, and learn what is involved in becoming a certified Master Gardener volunteer in the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Association (NETMGA), representing Sullivan, Washington, Unicoi, Carter, Johnson, and/or Hawkins County, go to:

<https://sullivan.tennessee.edu/2026-tennessee-extension-master-gardener-program-training/>

UTIA Experts Recommend the Best Cultivars of Popular Fruit Trees and Lesser-known Varieties

University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture horticulture experts have created several UT Extension publications for home gardeners who would like to grow well-known fruit trees such as apple, pear, peach, plum and cherry as well as lesser-known varieties like elderberry, fig, pawpaw and persimmon. Many nurseries are now taking orders for bare-root trees, which can be delivered and planted in the spring. Fall can be an excellent time to research, select and order high-quality plants from good suppliers for delivery in the early spring.

W 895-D Selecting Apples and Pears for Residential Production in Tennessee

W 895-F Selecting Peaches, Plums, and Cherries for Residential Production in Tennessee

D 234-A Elderberries for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes

D 234-B Figs for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes

D 234-C Pawpaws for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes

D 234-D Persimmons for Tennessee Gardens and Landscapes

Website: UT Hort, a hub for research-based horticulture information

Day Tripping To Nearby Public/Private Gardens

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

First a few travel tips. All gardens listed below may be reached in a day or less, assuming 8 to 10 hour travel by car. Call ahead or visit the garden website for exact open hours. Several large public and private gardens are closed on Monday and/or Tuesdays. Longer distances may require staying at a motel overnight and other travel costs.

Become a member of The American Horticulture Society (AHS) or a participating museum that offers a Reciprocal Admission Garden program. AHS lists over 350 public and private gardens that invite AHS members to enter free or at reduced cost. AHS annual membership dues are \$35 and includes six issues of their gardening magazine The American Gardener.

North Carolina

Asheville—Biltmore Estates Gardens—Fee

Asheville—NC Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way

Asheville—UNC Asheville. 1 Weaverville Rd.

Durham - Sarah Duke Botanical Gardens (campus), 420 Anderson Street, parking fee \$\$

Belmont - Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens, 6500 South New Hope Road, near Gastonia

Raleigh - JC Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Rd.

Raleigh - Juniper Level Botanical Gardens (JLBG) open M-F and select weekends.

Free admission (register online for weekend admission).

Chapel Hill - North Carolina Botanical Garden, 100 Old Mason Farm Road

Kernersville - Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden (5 acres of trees and gardens)

Winston-Salem - Reynolda Gardens, 100 Reynolda Village – newly restored conservatory

South Carolina

Clemson - SC Botanical Gardens, 150 Discovery Lane

Kentucky

Crestwood - Yew Dell Botanical Gardens, 6220 Old LaGrange Road (near Louisville)

Clermont - Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest 2075 Clermont Road

Lexington - Arboretum, State Botanical Garden, Univ. of Kentucky 500 Alumni Drive

Louisville - Waterfront Botanical Gardens, River Road (closed Mon. & Tues.)

Union - Boone County Arboretum – 25 minutes southwest of Cincinnati off I-75

Ohio

Cincinnati - Zoo and Botanical Gardens – outstanding collection of plants/ zoo habitat, fee

Cincinnati - Spring Grove's Arboretum and Cemetery– outstanding collection of trees

Columbus - Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Mansfield - Kingwood Center Gardens 50 North Trimble Road

Georgia

Atlanta - Atlanta Botanical Garden (ABG) - outstanding public garden; parking fee

Gainesville- ABG Gardens 1911 Sweetbay Drive - 35 acre extension

Athens - GA State Botanical Gardens, 2450 South Milledge Avenue

Athens - UGA Trial Gardens on campus parking, fee

Ball Ground - Gibbs Gardens, 987 Gibbs Drive, fee

Tennessee

Knoxville - UT Gardens, 2518 Jacob Drive (on UT Ag Campus)

Crossville - UT Plateau Gardens, 320 Experiment Station Rd

Knoxville – Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum, 2743 Wimpole Avenue

Nashville - Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, 1200 Forrest Park Dr



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

As we leave October turning our thoughts to the upcoming seasonal celebrations and the overindulgences that may seem inevitable, there are still gardening opportunities that deserve our attention. Late autumn and winter are the seasons when our gardens are quietly preparing themselves for spring.

For a summer harvest of garlic, it is not too late to plant in the first two weeks of November. In this area it is best to grow soft neck garlic, the type that is normally found in grocery stores, because it stores longer than hard neck varieties. Plant the cloves 2 to 3 inches deep and 4 to 6 inches apart. If you are growing garlic in containers, it's important to select containers with adequate drainage holes and to use quality potting soil. The container, whether fabric or plastic, should be at least 12 inches deep. Place it in a site that gets direct sun for 6 or more hours a day. Keep the soil moist but not drenched and in the spring add a nitrogen-rich fertilizer.

During the first couple of weeks of November, you can also sow seeds for cold hardy vegetables. Varieties of spinach that are cold hardy include Winter Bloomsdale, Giant Winter, and Hammerhead. Varieties of lettuce that are very cold hardy include Winter Density, Butter Crunch and Black Seeded Simpson. If grown under light weight row cover, they will survive winter. Although they stop growing in late November, they will resume growing again when day length exceeds 10 hours in mid-January.

Vegetable beds left naked over the winter are an open invitation to cold hardy weed seeds which can invade and start growing. Cover crops like fava beans

and Austrian winter peas are my preference. Clover is also an acceptable cover crop. Beans, peas, and clover are all legumes which form a symbiotic relationship with bacteria in their roots to convert nitrogen from the air into a form usable by plants. Mulching with dead leaves, pine needles, grass cuttings or straw is a beneficial option. If these are not available, then cover with newspaper or cardboard.

When we think about pollinators, our focus is usually on the role they play in maintaining plant biodiversity and supporting food production. We sometimes forget that pollinators do not magically appear in spring. They require a space to overwinter. Nature provides that space with deadfalls and nooks and crannies. Because some pollinators shelter in dead plant stems and leaves, it helps if we leave standing the stems of native plants. When tidying your gardens in the fall, don't dispose of organic material. When cutting back plants, chop them up and drop them on the ground to become mulch that feeds the soil and provides shelters for some pollinators including butterflies and solitary bees.

Sites to research:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/-qhAuLig8N8>

<https://cropcareequipment.com/blog/crops-to-grow-in-winter/>

<https://www.fws.gov/story/2022-08/winterize-your-pollinator-garden>

<https://evergreenofjc.com/blog/8-early-blooming-pollinator-plants-perfect-for-late-winter/>

Adding Year-Round Interest and Colour to Your Garden

The Wild Ones Appalachian Highlands Chapter and the Washington County Master Gardeners are co-sponsoring this talk.

Saturday, December 6th, 2025. 11:00 am to 12:00 pm (Eastern Time)

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Executive Auditorium, Partnership Cir, Abingdon, VA, 24210. Free event

We tend to think that gardening happens in spring and summer. Our view of fall is all about the striking colours of trees, mostly maples. However, fall offers an abundance of garden interest in the form of flowers, foliage colors, and displays from berries and seed heads that overflow into the winter season. With the addition of attractive bark and silhouettes from woody plants, we will explore these attributes that are overlooked during the other seasons.

Snow Ferreniea, who is English, first learned about plants and gardening from her parents both of whom were avid gardeners. She received her formal education in horticulture in England. Coming to America in the 70's, she continued to pursue her passion for plants, especially native ones, as a professional horticulturist. Snow was director of horticulture at Garden in the Woods. She has also worked at the New York Botanical Garden, Holden Arboretum and Wayside Gardens.