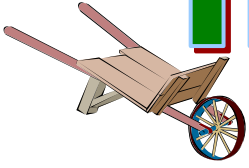


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

August 2026

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423-817-5473

SAPScontakt2020@gmail.com

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SAPS August Garden Tours.

SAPS Garden Tour

The garden of Gus Vizgirda

290 Sliger Rd in Jonesborough

Saturday, August 15 9:30 – 11am

This is a rain or shine event.

Most people willingly throw perfectly good kitchen scraps into plastic trash bags, drag them to the curb, and then buy bagged dirt at the store. Gus is a NE Tennessee Master Gardener who understands that garbage is simply the first stage of healthy soil. He will explain how to utilize home composting and rainwater storage as basic components of home gardening. He is glad to answer questions we might have about the garden and the processes.

The yard has raised beds with herbs, tomatoes, and peppers. A small orchard holds peach trees, pawpaw trees, and newly planted heritage apple trees that Gus grafted himself. Blueberry and raspberry bushes grow alongside a greenhouse and a native wildflower plot in the making (a five-year project). There is small amount of shade where we can escape the August heat and visitors can park on either side of the gravel road. If you would like to contact him, he can be reached at (951) 704-9476.

Herb Saplings

Tour of Sheridan and Stephen Nice's garden

801 Forest Ave., Johnson City, TN 37601

Thursday, August 6 at 6 pm

Sheridan's working garden has a little of everything: veggies, herbs, fruits and flowers. Steve says "We still have squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, berries, melons, figs, grapes, beans and peppers. Everyone should be ready to pick and eat as they tour."

Steve will give a 20 minute talk on chitosan, biochar and how he is regenerating and protecting against pathogens in their garden with a glucosamine called chitosan. He will give up to 50 attendees free 32-oz bottles of Garden Shield, made with concentrated chitosan and citric acid, both EPA-25(b) exempt ingredients for agriculture. It is registered as an exempt pesticide in Tennessee. They are also inspected by the TN Department of Agriculture annually, as a plant producer. **Please bring a chair for the talk and a gallon freezer bag for a free biochar sample.**

Their website is <https://chitosanglobal.com>. Steve just published The Chitosan Handbook, which is available free on the website.

Sheridan says that parking on the street is fine, and they have a circular driveway that can park at least 6 cars. Still it's good to carpool if you can. They are in the middle of some plumbing work, so they are sorry that bathrooms will not be available.

All SAPS members are welcome to attend.

If rain is forecast, the tour will be rescheduled.



Upcoming Events

August 6

Herb Saplings Meeting. 6 pm. Garden Tour of Sheridan and Stephen Nice's, 801 Forest Ave Johnson City, TN 37601.

August 8 and August 29

From Lawn to Meadow, Part 1. 2-4 pm. Asheville Botanical Garden. \$25.00. Participants will learn the ecological benefits and key steps in transforming an existing lawn or field into a thriving native meadow. Participants are encouraged (but not required) to also attend Part II on August 29 which will focus on managing and maintaining your meadow over time.

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/classregistrationform/event/acr-petemco/>

August 14

Intro to Butterfly ID. 10 - 11:30 am. NC Arboretum, Asheville. For a full schedule of classes at NC Arboretum: <https://www.ncarboretum.org/education-programs/adult-education-classes/>

August 14-15

Speaking of Gardening. Hilton Asheville Biltmore Park, Asheville. 2 day symposium educating and celebrating gardening. \$155. <https://www.speakingofgardening.org/>

August 15

Ijams Hummingbird Festival: A Celebration of Wings! 7 am-1 pm. Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville. Art and science activities for all ages, speakers, hands-on sessions, guided walks, live animal encounters, marketplace, and more! Adults \$12, Children 3-12 \$9, under 3 Free. Bird Banding session extra. <https://www.ijams.org/ijams-hummingbird-festival>

August 19

Wild Ones Free National Webinar: The Ecology of Home: Creating Habitat That Works with Shaun McCoshum. 7 - 8 pm. <https://wildones.org/category/wild-ones-presents/>

August 22

Succulent Container Gardening. 10 am – noon. UT Gardens, Knoxville (South Greenhouse 124). Cachepot, a Knoxville plant business known for lush container displays, will teach how to create a full and thriving succulent container. Each pre-

registered participant will craft and take home a container filled with succulents and receive growing info to keep it looking fabulous throughout the year. Registration limited for this hands-on workshop. All participants must pre-register. \$100 M/ \$110 N.

<https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/locations/knoxville/workshops-knoxville/>

August 22

Grooming Wild Gardens - Ecological Garden Management from Theory to Practice with Jenny Luczak. 10 – 11:30 am. Asheville Botanical Garden. Free. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/classregistrationform/event/abclareg-paevetemplcop/>

August 24-26

Women Preserving Farmland for the Future Conference

<https://arcd.networkforgood.com/events/98225-2026-women-preserving-farmland-for-the-future-starting-the-conversation>

August 29

From Lawn to Meadow (Part II): Establishment, Maintenance & Long-Term Success with Nathan Buchanan. 10 am – 12 pm. Asheville Botanical Garden. \$25. <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/classregistrationform/event/abclre-pevetemco/>

August 29

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

September 3

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Turmeric, 2026 Herb of the Year with James Mulcahey and Billie Wisecarver.

September 15

Most Delicious Poison, a virtual book talk with Noah Whiteman. 7 - 8:30 p.m. ET via Zoom webinars. \$10. Pre-registration required. https://reg.learningstream.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0005-0014-08b0e631498b4632aa0c2beb5d41cbcd

September 17

SAPS Meeting. 7 pm. Garry Menendez, Landscaping with Tennessee Native Plants-Providing a Sense of Place

Mosquito Buckets to Control Mosquitoes

Homegrown National Park and Wild Ones are promoting a simple, low-cost way to reduce mosquitoes while also protecting pollinators and other beneficials. Learn about how to control mosquitoes where most of them begin: standing water, by creating mosquito buckets. Go to: <https://wildones.org/mosquito-bucket/>

Make Good Choices when Replacing Bradford Pears

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

The word is out! Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) is an invasive tree species. This once popular small to medium-sized tree blooms in mid- to late March. Introduced by the USDA in the 1960's, following extensive 40+ year breeding trials, Bradford Pear and numerous clones were introduced and became extremely popular across the country.

As the tree's popularity began to soar, numerous wild seedling trees escaped into highways and byways across the country. Seeds from the fruits are spread by wildlife into woodlands, pastures, and neighborhoods. The chief concern is that these non-native plants are self-sowing in the larger ecosystem and are successfully competing with and displacing the native flora and fauna.

Callery pears are native to East Asia, including China and Vietnam, and are a part of the rose (Rosaceae) family. On the plus side, callery pears are reliable spring bloomers, have few disease or insect problems, and are adaptable to a wide range of soil and environmental conditions. In my opinion the Spring flower fragrance is awful.

Tree branches are highly brittle, leading to limb breakage in ice and windstorms. Specific cultivars with upright branching, namely 'Bradford', 'Capital', 'Whitespire', and 'Redspire' are not long-lived trees, rarely lasting more than 20-25 years. Wide-branching clones like 'Aristocrat' and 'Chanticleer' (also known as 'Cleveland Select') have a longer tree life expectancy.

'Bradford' pears are unable to pollinate other 'Bradford' pear flowers, but do pollinate other callery pear varieties. Birds and other animals eat the fruits produced and spread the seeds many miles competing with and displacing the native flora and fauna of the region.

I strongly urge the swift removal of wildling callery pear seedlings. Cut down and remove invasive trees and apply a stump herbicide such as glyphosate (Roundup™) or triclopyr to prevent resprouting. Be cautious when using herbicides. Read the label.

Warning: if you intend to bush hog or cut down the trees; some seedling trees may develop large thorns that can puncture tractor tires or cause injury.

Alternatives to Callery Pear

Cornel cherry (*Cornus mas*), Japanese cornel (*Cornus officinalis*), Redbuds (*Cercus spp.*), Crabapples (*Malus spp.*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*), Flowering Cherries (*Prunus spp.*), Carolina Silverbells (*Halesia dip-tera*), Snowbell (*Styrax japonica*), several magnolias (*Magnolia spp.*), and Tree Lilac (*Syringa reticulata*).

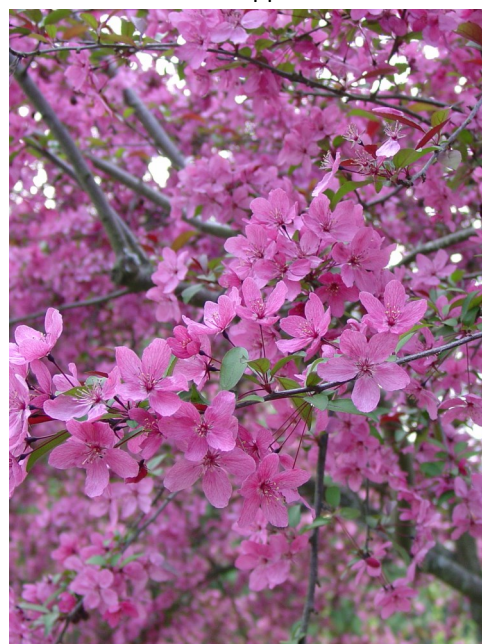
Redbud



Carolina Silverbells



Crabapple



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

Growing my own vegetables is a passion limited by the amount of available space with good quality soil and the amount of time I have to dedicate to it. Over the years I have become increasingly confident that growing my own vegetables saves money, but that is not the only benefit. Because I do as much organic gardening as I can, I know that the vegetables I grow are free of commercial chemicals. Usually the seeds I purchase are packaged with more seeds than I sow in the year. To carry the seeds over to the next year getting full value of the cost of the seeds I store them in an airtight container or plastic bag in either the freezer or refrigerator. When you save seeds at these temperatures, they will not be biologically active consuming nutrients in the seed before germination. Most varieties of seeds stored in a cold environment will last a minimum of 4 years.

I have learned to grow vegetables that allow me to harvest from my outdoor garden all four seasons. Of course, the vegetables that I can grow in the warmth of the late spring, summer and early fall are very different than those I grow and harvest in the cool season from late October to late March.

Many sites have instructions to help gardeners decide when to plant. They frequently suggest starting cabbage, kale and Brussel sprouts indoors in July and transplanting them between mid-August and the first week of September. I have successfully grown them by simply sowing the seeds in raised beds and containers in early to mid-August and keeping them moist by watering most days until they germinate.

In August, when the soil temperature is less than

80F, I will plant seeds of red and green cabbage and several varieties of Asian cabbage including Napa cabbage (Chinese cabbage), pak choi, (bok choy), savoy cabbage, tatsoi and kale. Other vegetable seeds to direct sow at this time include beets, bush beans, carrots, and radishes. When you shop online seed sites such as Territorial Seeds, Johnny's Selected Seeds, Fedco Seeds, and Seed Savers Exchange, you'll find they have specific varieties ideal for growing in containers. Some also have collections of seeds that are suitable for growing in warm weather. For example, I regularly grow a mixture of leaf lettuces that are suitable for warm weather in containers that I place in shade for the summer. In early August there is still time to plant seeds of fast-growing fall blooming flowers which will bloom through November. Some varieties that have short times to maturity include Autumn Beauty and Suntastic sunflowers, cosmos, zinnias and pansies. It is important to keep them moist.

An August chore with good dividends is dividing spring blooming flowers like bearded iris, daylilies, peonies and hosta. An important maintenance activity for August is pulling weeds before they release seeds. This is most easily done when the ground has been softened by rain. If rainfall doesn't accommodate your weeding plans, water the area thoroughly the night before you weed. After weeds and roots are removed, lay down a thick layer of 2 or more inches of compost, leaves, or straw.

Following this plan in August will provide a good crop of vegetables through November and result in less weeding next spring.

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 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!