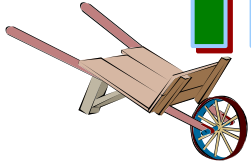


The Wheelbarrow



www.saps.us

Southern Appalachian Plant Society

September 2026

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423-817-5473

SAPScontakt2020@gmail.com

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12 Common Mistakes in Landscape Design & How to Avoid Them

Garry Menendez

Landscape architect, retired UT professor, and author

Thursday, September 17, at 7 p.m.

BrightRidge Auditorium

2600 Boones Creek Rd (Hwy 354), Johnson City

An area where folks are most tempted to bypass the advice of professionals is in the creation of garden and landscape design. It's true that gardening is an extremely rewarding endeavor and the feeling of accomplishment that comes with shaping a beautiful space is unmatched. Unfortunately, when it comes to choices about the design of our gardens, we've all made a mistake or two. Blending his knowledge with humor, Garry Menendez will show us some common not-so-good landscaping practices and offer tips to help avoid them. Garry is sure to inspire you to see your property with new eyes just in time for fall planting! Signed copies of his garden design book, *A Home for Your Gnome*, will be available for purchase.

Garry Menendez is a registered Landscape Architect and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Plant Sciences at The University of Tennessee. His primary areas of interest include residential garden design and native plant communities. For fifteen years he led study-abroad experiences throughout Europe and Japan focusing on historic gardens, architecture, culture, and on-site sketching. Garry currently maintains a small private practice emphasizing environmentally sensitive landscape design. He has authored several articles featured in such publications as *The Tennessee Gardener*, *Landscape and Irrigation*, and *Garden Guide*. Throughout his tenure at The University of Tennessee, Garry received awards for advising, writing, community service, and teaching which included the National Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Teaching. To see more of his work and talents visit garrymenendez.com and ahomeforyourgnome.com.

Fall Plant and Seed Swap and Potluck

SAPS members only

Saturday, October 3rd 9:30 am

V.O. Dobbins Center

301 Louis Street, Kingsport, TN 37660

Once again the plant swap will be at V.O. Dobbins Center. This location has plenty of parking and a very easy entrance. The SAPS sign and green balloons will mark the easiest entrance with parking available at the end of the building. 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! There will be a silent auction.

Please identify the plants you bring with the plant ID information form that accompanies the newsletter and remember that every item brought must leave with someone to a new home or return with the one who brought it.

Bring your favorite potluck brunch dish. Because extra serving utensils will not be available, please bring a serving utensil for your dish. Plates, cups, napkins and flatware will be provided as well as water and coffee. The brunch will begin around 10:15 after people have arrived and placed their items.

This event is restricted to members who are current with their dues, but those who are a little late in getting around to renewing membership will be able pay dues on the day. If you have questions or need more information, please call or text 423-737-7915.

We look forward to seeing you all on Saturday, October 3 at the Fall Plant Swap and Potluck.



Upcoming Events

September 3

David George Haskell - How Flowers Made our World: The Story of Nature's Revolutionaries. 7:30 pm. Free Webinar sponsored by TN Native Plant Society. <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F54896>

September 6

The Pollinator Perspective with Dr. Claire Hemingway. Learn about our native pollinators, their natural history and impressive cognitive abilities. 1-3 pm. UT Gardens, Knoxville (South Greenhouse Room 124). \$5 M/\$10 N. https://calendar.utk.edu/event/the-pollinator-perspective-7894?utm_campaign=widget&utm_medium=widget&utm_source=Calendar

September 10

Herb Saplings meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Turmeric, 2026 Herb of the Year, and Other Important Healing Herbs with James Mulcahey and Billie Wisecarver. Bring an herb snack to share if you have time.

September 11-12

Celebrating Native Plants: Diversity & Discovery symposium brings together 3 distinguished voices, David George Haskell, Preston Montague, and Alan Weakley, to explore the beauty, complexity, and importance of native plants and the landscapes they help shape. Highlands Biological Station, Highlands, NC. <https://highlandsbiological.org/2026-native-plant.../>

September 12

Fall Plant Sale. Asheville Botanical Gardens. 9 am – 2 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 14

The Seasonal Timing of Asters with Mary Anne Borge. 6 pm. Presented by Tennessee Valley Wild Ones. Zoom. Free. https://tnvalley.wildones.org/events/?wo_event_id=11987 ????

September 15

Dr. Shawn Krosnick, Professor of Biology and Director of the Hollier Herbarium at Tennessee Tech. Floral Morphs to Frugivores: Reproductive Ecology of *Passiflora incarnata* - the passionflower and Tennessee's state wildflower. 7:30 pm. Free webinar sponsored by TN Native Plant Society. <https://tnps.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F54302>

September 15

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

September 16

From Lawn to Meadow with Sara Weaner Cooper, owner and

principal New Directions in the American Landscape. 7 pm. Free webinar. Link provided with registration. Webinar will be recorded and shared with registrants. <https://wildones.org/from-lawn-to-meadow/>

September 17

SAPS Meeting. 7 pm. Garry Menendez. 12 Common Mistakes in Landscape Design and How to Avoid Them. BrightRidge Auditorium.

September 18-20

Fall Naturalist Rally. Roan Mountain State Park. Speakers and several 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 19

Sorghum Festival. Tipton Haynes State Historic Site. 8 am – 4 pm. Mules turn the mill to extract the juice which is cooked down into sweet molasses. Biscuit and gravy breakfast with sorghum 8-11 am. Tour historic house and explore the cave. Local bluegrass, old time bands, local vendors, food trucks. Admission with breakfast: \$10 adult, \$5 under 12; w/o breakfast adults \$8, kids \$4. <https://www.tipton-haynes.org/events/sorghum-festival-091226>

September 19

Sassafras Moon Herbal Festival. Downtown Erwin, TN. 10 am – 5 pm. Free herbal festival, free classes, herbal vendors. <https://www.herbalachia.com/sassyfest>

September 23

Monarch Migration Magic with Native Plants. 6:30 pm. Knoxville Botanical Garden. Hybrid. Free. Monarch migration and supporting monarchs as they pass through your community. Steve McGaffin of Zoo Knoxville. Register for Zoom link: https://smokymountains.wildones.org/events/?wo_event_id=13410

September 25-26

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 and 30+ local growers and businesses. \$20 parking fee for non-members. <https://ncarboretum.org/event/fall-plant-sale-and-market-3/2026-09-26/>

September 26-27

54th 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://exchangeplacetn.org/>

October 1

Herb Saplings Meeting. 7 pm at Exchange Place. Getting Out of Fight or Flight with Herbs with Seth McLaughlin, Family Nurse Practitioner, Advance Practice Holistic Nurse.

October 3

SAPS Plant and Seed Swap, Silent Auction and Potluck. VO Dobbins Complex, Kingsport. 9:30 – Noon.

Exchange Place Fall Folk Arts Festival 2026

Exchange Place Living History Farm, 4812 Orebank Road in Kingsport, will hold its 54th annual Fall Folk Arts Festival on Saturday, September 26, from 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, September 27, from 12 noon to 5 pm. This celebration of traditional arts and crafts and the harvest season will feature artisans demonstrating and selling a wide array of heritage folk arts, along with autumn plants and seasonal items. Visitors will see skills essential to life in the 1850s such as coopering, lye soap making, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, and hearthside cooking. On Saturday, Ms. Maggie T. Mule, with help from some of Exchange Place volunteers, will be extracting juice from cane so it can be cooked into sorghum. There will be food and music, and young'uns can try their hand at chores and visit the 19th century through activities scattered around the farmstead. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children under 12.

For more information: 423-288-6071, epfestivals.gf@gmail.com, <https://exchangeplacetn.org/>

Beautyberries in Your Fall Landscape

Contributed by Hugh Conlon

Beautyberries (*Callicarpa spp.*) are deciduous woody shrubs with showy ornamental fruits that may persist months after the shrub has dropped its leaves in the fall. Beautyberries are among the finest ornamental fruiting shrubs and are easy to care for. Plant them in your landscape to attract birds and bees, as foundation shrubs, or for naturalizing.

Many species of *Callicarpa* are found worldwide and are part of the mint family (Lamiaceae). Asian beautyberries (*C. dichotoma*), native to China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam, are very popular followed by U.S. natives (*C. americana*). Plant several for optimum cross-pollination to increase fruit numbers.

Asian varieties and hybrids typically grow 2-6 feet high and 4-5 feet wide. Beautyberries prefer full day sun to guarantee loads of flowers and fruits. Branches become leggy and less fruitful when planted in too much shade. Plant in well-drained soil and irrigate during seasonal dry spells. Beautyberry becomes quite drought tolerant after its initial planting year.

Clusters of pink to lavender flowers emerge in late spring and summer on new wood, followed by clusters of lilac-violet berries that ripen September through October. In late winter or early spring prune to the desired shape and size.

Compared to the large coarser-leafed and taller-growing American species (*C. americana*), the leaves of Asian varieties are smaller and aligned closer together on branches for a fine-texture. Compact growing Asian beautyberry varieties are a more suitable fit in large patio containers.

When properly sited and cared for, disease and insect problems are rare. Otherwise, foliar leaf spots, mildews, stem cankers, and black mold become troublesome.

Beautyberry flowers attract bees and butterflies; birds and small mammals are attracted to the fruits. Beautyberry shrubs are also deer resistant. Asian beautyberries (*C. dichotoma*) are on invasive lists in some states.

Four of the Best Cultivars:

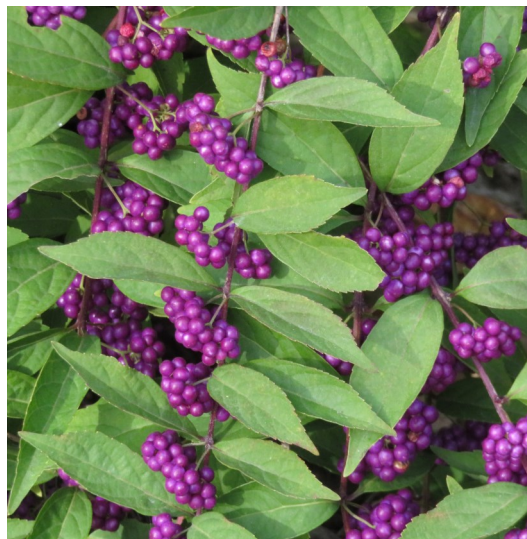
'Early Amethyst' grows to 3-4 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. Light pink flowers are followed by large clusters of 1/8 inch wide, glossy amethyst-purple berries from August - late November.

Pearl Glam™ (*C. dichotoma* x *C. kwangtungensis*) is a compact grower (4 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide) with an upright form, dark purple foliage and early fruiting habit. (PW selection).

'Welch's Pink' (*C. americana*) beautyberry grows 4-6 feet tall and wide and produces huge numbers of unusual pink berries that last into winter until the birds eat them.

'Duet' (*C. dichotoma* f. *albafructus*) grows 6-8 feet tall and wide deciduous shrub bearing medium green leaves with creamy yellow margins and eye-catching pure white berries.

Early Amethyst



Welch's Pink



Across the President's Desk

By Earl Hockin

Autumn is the ideal time to plant native perennials, shrubs and trees in this area. When the air temperature drops from the average mid-summer temperatures by approximately 10°F, transpiration slows and plants don't lose moisture as fast while the soil temperature remains suitable for good root growth.

There are native flowers to add to the garden in autumn that will provide year after year benefit to native insects. Aromatic aster blooms late with purple-blue daisy-like flowers that feed late season bees. Golden rod is supportive of native bees and migrating monarch butterflies on their way to Mexico. Black-eyed Susan flowers provide food for native bees, butterflies and small wasps.

Consider planting native shrubs in September and October that are deer resistant and support native insects and birds. Spicebush, a shade lover, is a host plant for the spicebush swallowtail butterfly caterpillar and produces red berries that migrating songbirds enjoy. Arrowwood viburnum, a native plant which does well in full sun, supports more than a hundred species of native butterfly and moth caterpillars. Robins, blue birds and cedar waxwings flock to the fall berries. When planting shrubs, dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and the exact depth of the root ball. The root flare should not be below ground level. Finally, water deeply around the root and cover with mulch to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.

It is becoming increasingly clear that rising temperatures due to climate change has encouraged insect pests to move north. When gardeners think of insect pests, they often concentrate on the ones that are garden predators. It is also important to recognize the increase in insect pests

that are hazardous to humans. Chief among these are ticks which do not threaten our gardens but are a hazard for us. In April, the C.D.C. reported that tick bite emergency room visits were up 50 percent from a year earlier and were the highest in a decade in most parts of the country. On August 18, with 13 days still to go in the month, the numbers were already higher than for any August total on record.

Some human diseases transmitted by ticks are ehrlichiosis, spotted fever rickettsial group diseases, tularemia, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Lyme disease, alpha-gal syndrome, heartland virus, Powassan virus, and southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI).

Ticks found in Northeast Tennessee are the American dog tick (wood tick) which carries Rocky Mountain fever; black-legged tick (deer tick) which carries Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and Powassan encephalitis; brown dog tick and Gulf Coast tick which carry Rocky Mountain fever; lone star tick which carries ehrlichiosis, tularemia, heartland virus, STARI, and alpha-gal syndrome.

The Lone Star Tick seems to be creating the most concern. It can transmit the alpha-gal syndrome which can create an allergy to red meat in its victims causing anaphylactic shock days or weeks later when the victim ingests red meat.

My personal choice to protect myself from these ticks is to spray the clothing I wear when gardening with Permethrin Premium Insect Repellent which is effective through 6 washes. Use permethrin as a treatment for clothing and not as a general treatment for insect infestations. It is toxic to bees and other pollinators.

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 12 – Greene County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 9 am – 1 pm.
Greene County Fairgrounds, 109 Jeff Woods Memorial Dr., Greeneville. 423 638-4111

September 26 – Sullivan County Household Hazardous Waste Collection. 9 am – 1 pm.
Sullivan Central Middle School, 131 Shipley Ferry Rd, Blountville. 423-323-6439.

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/solid-waste/documents/materials-management/remediated/mm-hhw-collections/2026-hhw-events.pdf>