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New Database to report hours

Those who attended the Quarterly Meeting on April 28, learned about a new database system to record hours. The new login site is temg.tennessee.edu and is user friendly. You will need to log into the database for the first time, by clicking the register button and using the email that is on file with UT Extension (typically the one I have in the system is the one that I send the newsletter to). Once in you can edit your profile, and see a county roster. Also you will be able to log volunteer hours and CEUs.

The new database requires volunteer hours be linked to a project. The group discussed Saturday the best list of projects to reflect what we do and to assist in reporting. Thus, a list is below with a description of each project. We separated them by county so we can report more accurately to each county the number of hours contributed.

Also, keep in mind you are reporting hours when you volunteer in the community as a Master Gardener or are utilizing your expertise as a Master Gardener.

Projects

• Valley Fest - Valley Fest
• Bledsoe Co 4-H - any volunteer time with the 4-H Program
• Bledsoe Co Fair - all fair related
• Bledsoe Nursing Home - nursing Home
• Bledsoe Co Other Activities - other activities and projects in Bledsoe County not listed otherwise
• Sequatchie Co 4-H - Volunteering with the 4-H Program
• Sequatchie Co. Library - Library landscape
• Sequatchie County Fair - all fair related activities
• Sequatchie Co Other Activities - all other projects and activities in the county not otherwise listed

The report generates a cool chart which I will try to transfer in the future and the following report.

Stats for Selected Time Period
(Note I selected Jan 1 to April 30)
Total Project Hours: 25.15
Total Project Miles: 64
Total Hours Value: $557.32
Total Miles Value: $29.44
Total Value: $586.76
Total CEU Programs: 9
Total CEU Hours: 11.5
Total Hours Value: $254.84

Note also, that this is what is in the new database and not all the hours reported to date.
Dr. Bumgarner Speaks at Quarterly Meeting

Cultivar Calculus and updates on the new database were the topics Dr. Natalie Bumgarner covered at the last Quarterly Meeting on April 28. The article on the first page discusses the database. The Cultivar Calculus discusses recent results of the Tennessee Garden Variety Trials. The results of past trials are found at the links below.

2016 and 2017 Trial Report- grafted tomatoes.pdf
2017 Trial Report- single replication trials.pdf

Dates for 2018

• Valley Fest May 5-6, 2018, Dunlap TN
• Sequatchie County Fair August 6-11, 2018. Entries taken August 6, Flower Show August 7.
• Steak and Potatoes Field Day August 7, 2018, 8:00AM Crossville, Plateau Research & Education Center
• SVMG Quarterly Meeting and Tomato Tasting August 11, 2018, 9:00 AM – meeting 10:00 AM, Tasting Pikeville (moved to avoid Yard Sale)
• 10th Annual Fall Gardeners' Festival August 28th, 2018 UT Gardens Crossville, Plateau Research & Education Center
• SVMG Quarterly Meeting November 3, 2018, 9:00 AM Dunlap

2018 All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series

• June 1, 2018 Title Attracting Pollinators to Our Yards
  Presented by Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
• August 3, 2018 Title Bees, Wasps, and Hornets, Oh My!
  Presented by TBA
• September 7, 2018 Title Winterizing Your Home to Keep Out Pests
  Presented by Janet Hurley, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
• October 5, 2018 Title Structural Misidentified Pests
  Presented by Molly Keck, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
• November 2, 2018 Title Lice, Scabies, and Mites
  Presented by Dr. Nancy Hinkle, University of Georgia
• December 1, 2018 Title Pantry Pests
  Presented by Dr. Dan Suiter, Extension Entomologist, UGA Extension
June Garden Tips

*Submitted by Jason Reeves, horticulturist and curator at the University of Tennessee Gardens, Jackson*

June, the most popular month for weddings, is also all about being outdoors and enjoying nature. June’s a great month to enjoy the bounty of blooms in the garden.

Jason Reeves, research horticulturalist for the University of Tennessee Gardens in Jackson, says there’s a number of things Tennesseans can do in June to benefit their gardens. One is to add annual plants to their beds.

“Just because it’s almost summer doesn’t mean it is too late to plant annuals. I often don’t get my annuals at home into the ground until mid to late June. Plants such as sunflowers, zinnias, Mexican sunflowers, cosmos, marigolds, basil and dill can still be direct-seeded while purchased plants can be transplanted into the garden.”

Reeves says gardeners should also think about mulch. “During the hot summer months, mulch can be especially useful for conserving water. Consider mulching your vegetable garden as well as your ornamentals. The mulch not only helps conserve moisture, but it prevents the splashing of water, reducing the spread of disease. It also adds organic matter to the soil and prevents many weeds.

Reeves has a number of tips to share:

- Trim back catmint (*Nepeta*) after its first flush of flowers to promote new growth and a second flush of blooms.
- Harvest herbs early in the morning when essential oil content is at its peak. The best time to harvest most herbs is just before flowering. This time is when the leaves contain the maximum essential oils.
- Daylilies are in peak bloom in June. It is a good time to buy new daylily selections for your garden to ensure you get the color you desire. Visit a daylily farm for the best selections, and plant them in full sun for the best flower production.
- Once daffodil foliage has turned yellow, you can mow or cut it down. If you remove it while it is still green, you decrease the amount of energy available for the bulb to store, decreasing flower size next year.
- To keep squash, cucumber and bean plants abundantly producing, harvest them frequently.
- Store leftover vegetable and flower seeds in a cool, dry location to save them for planting next year.
- Water your plants in the morning, if possible, to conserve water and reduce evaporation. Infrequent, deep watering is better than frequent, shallow watering, since deep watering promotes deep root growth. For best results, deep-water trees and shrubs once or twice a week and flowers two to three times a week. Most plants need 1 inch of rainfall per week. Pay attention to how much falls from the sky and water accordingly. If you have an automatic irrigation system, consider installing a rain sensor that adjusts for rainfall.
May 2018 Plant of the Month 'Cheyenne Spirit'

This Coneflower Reigns Supreme
Submitted by Alice Kimbrell, horticulturist with the UT Gardens, Knoxville

Coming from the Greek word for hedgehog due to its spiny, unique center, Echinacea, or coneflower, has always been one of my favorite perennials. The plant’s overabundance of summer-blooming flowers attracts a multitude of beneficial pollinators to the garden, plus the cultivars bloom in a rainbow of colors.

One AAS Trial Winner for 2013, Echinacea x hybrida ‘Cheyenne Spirit’, is stealing the show in the coneflower department. An herbaceous perennial, this cultivar requires minimal care — no deadheading, staking or excessive watering, not to mention the plant is deer resistant. Also, it comes in nearly every color you can think of including white, yellow, orange, red and purple — sometimes all on one plant!

Like other coneflowers, Cheyenne Spirit requires full sun for the best and biggest prolific blooms. It is drought tolerant, especially after the first year, and it grows well in a variety of soils. It is also resistant to rain and wind damage, refusing to topple over in most storms in contrast to traditional Echinacea. Cheyenne Spirit plants are somewhat bushy and upright, and with blooms, measure about 32 inches tall. This plant will happily grow in zones 4-9.

Cheyenne Spirit is perfect for pollinator or cottage-style gardens when planted in a perennial bed or used in mass plantings in a landscape border. All Echinacea species are native to North America, so this plant is also a suitable choice for a native garden. Blooming the first year, the 3-inch to 4-inch flower heads are sure to attract a variety of butterflies and other pollinators. Plus, if you leave the old flower heads on the plant into fall and winter, birds, especially goldfinches, will enjoy eating the seeds.

You can find Cheyenne Spirit growing all across the state, and specimens are on display in all three of UT Gardens locations: Knoxville, Jackson and Crossville. Echinacea ‘Cheyenne Spirit’ is also widely available at local nurseries.
Fruits of the Backyard Field Day June 19

Educational Information for Growing Delicious Backyard Produce

Do you love to grow, harvest, and prepare your own produce? What about your own honey? These topics and more will be covered at Fruits of the Backyard, a University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture event for home owners and producers alike who want to learn in a fun environment. Scheduled for June 19 at the Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center, this event promises to give you the information you need to make your backyard even more delicious.

The field day features three topic-specific breakout sessions with UT Extension specialists. Carol Reese, Extension area specialist, will discuss bee keeping and harvesting your own honey; Natalie Bumgarner, Extension plant sciences expert, will give an in-depth talk on peppers in preparation for summer gardens; and David Lockwood, Extension fruit and nut crops specialist, will give an overview of site selection and preparation must-dos.

Attendees will get many opportunities throughout the day to ask questions and hear solutions that are specific to their site and situation from area farmers, and any unanswered questions can be addressed at the closing panel, which will include each of the UT Extension specialists presenting.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 1 p.m. CDT, this event is free and open to the public. The Fruits of the Backyard Field Day also features educational displays from UTIA, UT Extension and one very exciting display from Spring Hill High School students and instructor Gwynne Evans. A trade show will feature exhibitors from Middle Tennessee. Plant and pest diagnostics as well as soil testing will be available throughout the day from trade show exhibitors.

The Middle Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center is located at 1000 Main Entrance Drive in Spring Hill, Tennessee, on Highway 31 North. The site is about 20 minutes south of Nashville, accessible from exit 53 from Interstate 65. Registration is not required, but anyone planning to attend with special needs or questions may contact Kevin Thompson, MTREC director, at 931-486-2129. More information can be found at the MTREC website at middle.tennessee.edu.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture celebrates 50 years of excellence in providing Real. Life. Solutions. through teaching, discovery and service. ag.tennessee.edu.

Other events at Research and Education Centers

- **UT Gardens Green Industry** - June 26, UT Gardens, Knoxville
- **Summer Celebration** - July 12, West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center (Jackson)
- **UT Arboretum Butterfly Festival** - August 4, Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center - UT Arboretum (Oak Ridge)
- **Turf and Ornamental** - August 30, East Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center - Plant Sciences Unit (Knoxville)
- **Fall Folklore Jamboree** - October 20, AgResearch and Education Center at Milan

Full details at [http://taes.tennessee.edu/](http://taes.tennessee.edu/)
The Extension Master Gardener Program is a program of the University of Tennessee Extension. For more information contact:

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Useful links
Tennessee Extension Master Gardening Program
https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener

Reporting hours On-line
margardener.tennessee.edu/tmg_resources

TMG Volunteer Handbook
https://extension.tennessee.edu/MasterGardener/Documents/W099-%20Volunteer.%20November.pdf

Short Rows

Plants for Monarch Butterflies
*those that are native to our area
All listed are native to the Southeast U.S.

*Butterfly milkweed Asclepias tuberosa
*Eastern smooth beardtongue Penstemon laevigatus
*Beach blanket-flower Gaillardia pulchella
*Smooth oxeye Heliopsis helianthoides
*Whorled milkweed Asclepias verticillata
*Slender mountainmint Pycnanthemum tenuifolium
*Blackeyed Susan Rudbeckia hirta
*Blue mistower Conoclinium coelestinum
*Camphorweed Heterotheca subaxillaris
*Dense blazing star Liatris spicata
*Giant ironweed Vernonia gigantea
*Joe pye weed Eutrochium stulorum two other species Eutrochium of are reported in the valley E. maculatum and E. purpureum
Spotted beebalm Monarda punctata
*Swamp milkweed Asclepias incarnata
*Wingstem Verbesina alternifolia
*Goldenrod Solidago spp. Tennessee has 32 native species of goldenrod 19 of these are reported as being in Bledsoe or Sequatchie Counties perennial
*Narrowleaf sunflower Helianthus angustifolius
*Eastern redbud Cercis Canadensis
*Flowering dogwood Cornus florida
*Smooth sumac Rhus glabra
*Common buttonbush Cephalanthus occidentalis
*Devil's walking-stick Aralia spinosa
*Eastern baccharis Baccharis halimifolia
Fragrant sumac Rhus aromatica

Sources
− Gombert, Linda L.; Hamilton, Susan L. and Coe, Mindi. Butterfly Gardening
   https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/PB1636.pdf (has a larger list of plants for other butterfly species)
− http://herbarium.utk.edu/
− https://plants.usda.gov/java/
− “Nectar Plants for Monarchs” National Wildlife Federation
   https://www.nwf.org/~/media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Xerces-NWF/12-Southeast_Monarch_Plant_List_spread.ashx