

# THYMES

CUMBERLAND COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS

JULY, 2023



Patricia Briney saw an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail visiting her butterfly bush. They love lantana, too.



President: Mike Barron

## Viva Mexican Sunflowers



My Sunflowers are growing. The Mexican sunflowers are beautiful, while my other sunflowers continue to grow, they were beat up pretty bad in last week's deluge. This hot humid weather has all of our plants, and grass growing well.

In the month of September, we will begin the nomination process for officers. Normally that is the time when people start ducking and stop answering the phone, but it is an important time for the health of our organization. I would ask that people begin considering taking one of the officer roles for next year. Look at the positions, President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, and think how your skills would work with the role. Job descriptions are available on our website, but take the time to talk with the person currently in the role and learn more about what it requires. Some of our current officers will not be available for next year, due to term limitations. It is also great to get new people into these roles, with new ideas and perspectives. Please do some homework about where you might best fit and then pick up the phone when it rings.

**August 1<sup>st</sup> Member Meeting @ 5:30 in the Country Store**

**Potluck Dinner** – Theme of County Fairs

**Speaker** – Amanda Carroll – Project in the Garden

**Business Meeting**

Vice President: Rhoda Hiller

I hope everyone is having a great summer. I know it is tough to go outside to weed our flower beds in the heat. I find the early morning is the best time to weed and with the heavy dew lately, the weeds are easier to pull. After all it is July and we are in TN.

I attended a Pollinator Plant Give Away last month and learned so much about plants for pollinators. Without our bees, butterflies and birds, we will have no food or any pretty flowers. Let's try to teach our grandkids and, in my case, great grandkids about pollinators.

The Fall Gardener's Festival is coming up on August 29. The speakers this year will be presenting a variety of topics of interest to all of our gardening community.

Let's enjoy our summer because in about 4 months, we will be wishing for this warmer weather. Enjoy.

## Master Gardener News

Erin Fletcher Conley:

### UT GARDEN MEMBERSHIP BOOTH AT FALL GARDENERS' FESTIVAL (FGF)

Again, this year we will have a UT Garden membership booth at FGF. I will need at least two people to help me man the booth. Besides trying to sell memberships; I will need to leave the table to take photos of the seminars, speakers and activities. It's not a very hard job and it's mostly sitting and being friendly. This would be a perfect job for those who are not physically able to do a lot of walking or standing.

### UT GARDEN MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Again, this year we are having a membership drive. This would be the perfect time to join or renew your UT Garden membership. With the exception of \$15 (from each membership), the money stays at OUR GARDEN. This money helps fund Shalena's position at OUR GARDENS. And we all know that without Shalena (and Ernie) our gardens would not be what they are today, and the classes in the gardens would not happen. With your membership, you will have reciprocal entry into over 300 gardens throughout the US, Canada and the US Virgin Islands, receive a discount on plant sales at OUR GARDEN, Knoxville and Jackson, and a CULTIVATE magazine two times a year. (See current *Cultivate* with a picture of our own Janet Coe.) Hope to see you all at the membership table during the FGF to renew your membership or sign up to be a new member.

### BAG STUFFERS NEEDED for AUGUST 28

We will have approximately 500 orange bags that will need to be stuffed with swag for the lucky first 500 people that show up for the Fall Gardeners' Festival. We usually stuff the bags after the walk-through is done on the Monday before the FGF.

## Sue Partch: Mid-Summer Observations

The fireworks tents and flag displays have come...and mostly gone. The booms and light displays sparkled and have faded to a few random leftovers. Roads and parks are full of campers and RVs. Because of the rains, the trees are verdant and lush. The underbrush is thick. But there are patches of browned-off leaves dying for some reason. Un-mown roadsides are chest high with grasses and weeds. There's even more of the light colored Queen Anne's lace and blue chicory now, but it's been joined by bright yellow, black-eyed Susans and deep orange butterfly weed and double daylilies. Here and there tall spikes of mullen are starting to put out small spots of yellow.

In fallow fields, the grass has long gone to seed, leaving swaths of tan; but hayfields are showing bright second growth. Corn height ranges from knee-high to shoulder and some has begun to tassel. Huge sunflower heads are starting to open. Calves frolic while their moms lie down resting. Farm equipment slows traffic.

Yards are showing off hydrangea blooms, poppy patches and bright red bee balm. Woodland edges have elderberry clusters and orange flowered trumpet vine. Vegetable gardens are full of rows of green leafy plants, some fat and bushy, others tall and thin, while others sport vines-climbing trellises. There are some flowers in yards--and certainly plenty of flowers and shoppers in stores--but many yards are just green; green grass with green-leaved trees and shrubs. A few hanging baskets brighten porches, but not many yards have big flower patches full of colorful blooms. The green ones look quiet and restful, but I like the happiness of lots of bright flowers.

Guess that's why I work in the daylilies at PDG.

## Bird Stories

### Kathy Limp: House Occupied

Don Hazel stopped by my house to give me information on bluebirds. Imagine our surprise when we looked in the newest bird house and found white-breasted nuthatch eggs.

