

Thursday, June 9th, 2022- All held at Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport (853 Bays Mountain Park Road, Kingsport, TN 37660)

<https://www.baysmountain.com/>

12:30-3:30 *Pre-conference herb workshop*

In a special pre-conference afternoon hosted by the Big Springs Master Gardeners, you can take a tour of herbs and history in Appalachia. There will be four sessions in the afternoon taught by Melody Rose, Annie Dunn, Gayle Crowe, Katie Goins, Charlotte Smith, Mary Goldman, and Michele Bradley.

Appalachian Plants for Dye

Immerse yourself in a hands-on experience with traditional native plants we utilize for dyeing purposes. Dye a doily to take home using the true essence of Appalachian plant colors.

Granny Witches, Plant Lore, & Doctrine of Signatures

Learn all about these notorious women native to the Appalachia area and how they helped shape the culture and heritage of our region through the use of plants.

Appalachian Apothecary

Explore some of the elusive native species known to our region that both allure and excite the senses with a twist on modern pharmacopeia.

Basic Butters and Vibrant Vinegars

Choose your bitter (or butter)! Find out why Appalachians play such tribute to these distinguished tonics and flavorful herbs that both heal and add pizzazz.

This whole session will take place in the Farmstead building at Bays Mountain Park. Space is limited to 48 participants.

1:00-3:00 *Pre-conference fly fishing workshop*

The East Tennessee chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting novice and experienced fly fisherman at the South Holston Dam. If you are experienced, bring your gear and enjoy a great afternoon of fishing. If you are a novice, you can use equipment from the local club as well as have a beginner lesson. Space is limited to around 20 participants and there is equipment for 10 novice fisherman. Transportation will be all on your own for this session.

4:00-5:30 *Bays Mountain Park Activities*

Enjoy some great opportunities to take part in park activities. From 4:00-4:50, you will be able to choose from a barge ride (limit 40), a reptile educational session, or a planetarium show. Extra fees for these events will be covered by conference registration. Then at 5:00, you can enjoy a very unique aspect of Bays Mountain – a wolf howling led by park rangers and their Bays Mountain wolves. Space for each of these sessions varies, so registration may be limited.

5:30-8:00 *Dinner and Conference Opening Session with Search for Excellence Awards*

We will officially kick off our 2022 conference with dinner from Center Street BBQ, which will be provided buffet style in the farmstead at Bays Mountain. Seating indoors is available for some folks, but we encourage you to enjoy the park and consider eating in the amphitheater as well. Once dinner is concluded, our opening session will be held in the outdoor amphitheater at the park from 7-8. We will focus on recognizing and celebrating our 2022 Search for Excellence Winners. In the case of inclement weather, dinner and the awards can be moved to the Ron Ramsey Ag Center.

Friday, June 10th, 2022- Ron Ramsey Ag Center (140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN 37617)

<https://ramseyagcenter.com/>

8:30 -9:30 *Registration and Light Breakfast*

The opening session will begin at 9:30, but our hospitality team is providing breakfast, so we encourage you to come early to eat, register, visit and check out the silent auction.

9:30-9:45 *Welcome and Opening with Greetings from Extension Administration*

Our Extension Master Gardener conference day will begin with greetings from UT brought to us by the Dean of Extension, Dr. Ashley Stokes as well as our local Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener hosts.

9:45-10:40 *General session- Power of Plants in Appalachia*

Our conference is celebrating the people, places, and plants of Appalachia. So, our opening general session will be led by an expert in all things plants in the southeast. CoreyPine Shane, of Asheville NC, has been working in the area of identification, harvest and use of plants of the southeast for years and has taught around the United States and Europe. He'll be presenting an overview of the Power of Plants in Appalachia and will focus on

10:40-11:00 Morning Break and snacks

11:00-12:00 Morning Breakout Session

- 1) ***Woodland Crops of East Tennessee***- Join ethnobotanist Marc Williams for a tour of plants of east Tennessee and the Appalachian Mountains. Marc brings his training in sustainable agriculture and Appalachian studies along with years of experience in farming and food production both domestically and internationally.
- 2) ***Getting Started in Backyard Fruit***- Our Tennessee home fruit team of agents will be leading this introduction session to help you select the best fruit crops for your backyard production. Join Gregg Upchurch, Lee Sammons, and Seth Whitehouse for a great tour of fruit options, challenges and management tips for Tennessee!
- 3) ***Horticulture in the Kitchen- Part 1***- We are being joined by Family and Consumer Science Extension colleagues from nearby counties for these sessions led by Lamanda Weston and Elizabeth Renfro. They will take place in the teaching kitchen and feature teaching (and hopefully some tasting) and great ideas for using local, summer crops in our kitchens.
- 4) ***Gardening through the Year*** – Join Earl Hockin, a local Master Gardener and experienced vegetable gardener. He'll be sharing tips and tricks for raised beds, season extension and other techniques to garden successfully in Tennessee throughout the year.

12:00-1:00 Lunch- Appalachian Seasonal Salads by the Big Springs Master Gardeners

1:00-2:15 *Local Group Project Share Session*- Interactive Session

All local EMG groups are invited to bring a display to share one of their favorite service, teaching and outreach projects from their local group. Our Search for Excellence winners will also each have a table. These tables will all be set up in the large arena at the Ag Center. This session will enable EMGs from around the state to visit and learn and share ideas for horticulture outreach. You'll have time to visit these table displays and connect with other volunteers. Plus, we will have some passports to challenge you to visit and connect in this time.

2:15-3:15 Afternoon Breakout Session

- 1) **Trees and Turfgrass**- We have all enjoyed the many years Dr. Tom Samples has invested in teaching in our EMG program. This session will feature Dr. Samples on his retirement tour with some of his urban forestry friends and will focus on key principles and practices for designing and managing both trees and turfgrass in your residential landscape.
- 2) **Supporting Bees in the Garden** – Our Extension apiculturist, Dr. Jennifer Tsuruda, is joining us for a session about supporting bees in the garden. She'll share information about selecting plants to best support bees across the gardening season. Plus, she will be presenting lessons learned and tips for establishing wildflowers.
- 3) **Horticulture in the Kitchen Part 2**- This is a second and not repeated session led by Family and Consumer Science Extension colleagues from nearby counties, Lamanda Weston and Elizabeth Renfro. This session will be in the teaching kitchen and feature teaching (and hopefully some tasting) and great ideas for using local, summer crops in our kitchens.
- 4) **An Heirloom Vegetable Tour of Appalachia** – Join Melody Rose and Natalie Bumgarner for some of the history, horticulture, and local legends behind favorite crops of the southern Appalachians. From candy roasters to plum grannies, tomato tales and beans of every shape and size, you will enjoy a local look at the past and present in the vegetable world.

3:15-3:45 Afternoon Break

3:45-5:30 **General session- Horticulture production in East TN**- Our closing session of the day will feature local agriculture guests and a farm to finger food light dinner of hours d'oeuvres. Renee and Carl Church are local agriculture leaders who grow and market tomatoes widely across the US and beyond. They own and operate Jones and Church Farm, Inc. and will bring us their perspective on the joys and challenges of horticulture production in east Tennessee. They will share some of their experiences and we'll have time to visit and ask questions as we eat dinner. Our official conference day will close at 5:30 and we encourage everyone to visit, eat and spend time with EMGs from across the state.

7:00 PM **Friday evening social at Meadowview firepit**

Saturday, June 11th, 2022 Ron Ramsey Ag Center (140 Spurgeon Lane, Blountville, TN 37617)

8:00-9:00 **Regional Meeting Breakout Sessions**

This time will be the planning and organizational time of our conference with time to discuss and plan future regional conferences and meet EMGs from around the state. These visits will be divided into east, central and west TN attendees and led by the Extension Master Gardener workgroup members from each region.

9:00-12:30 On Site Morning In-depth Sessions

- 1) **Appalachian Arts Workshop**- Join Evangelon James and her Bradley County Extension Master Gardener team for a fun workshop featuring unique local arts. You'll have the opportunity to select and paint your own gourd and enjoy other fun horticulture craft projects. No transportation needed as this workshop will be at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center. 30 person limit.
- 2) **Vines to Wines Workshop**- Get all the information you need to select, plant, maintain and harvest home grapes for fresh eating, juice, jelly or even wine. Our own Dr. Dave Lockwood will be joining us along with the

grapes to wine agent team of Melody Rose and Gregg Upchurch for a lecture and hands on morning of all things home grapes and wine. No transportation needed as this workshop will be at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center. 40 person limit.

9:00-12:30 **Tour and Travel Morning In-Depth Sessions**

1) ***Trees and Native Plants of East TN at Steele Creek Park***- This tour will showcase one of the beautiful local parks, Steele Creek. Teaching sessions will be led by Jeremy Stout, who is a ranger at Steele Creek and an experienced arborist. He will do a walking and talking tour of the park focusing on identification, use and management of trees in the park and your own backyard. Van transportation is provided and the tour is limited to 20 participants.

2) ***History and Horticulture in East TN at Rocky Mount***- Rocky Mount is a state historic site featuring many historic buildings, a museum and historic gardens maintained by our own Tennessee Extension Master Gardeners. Don Davis and Maureen Mulroy are the leads for this tour focusing on the historic herb garden. You'll learn about historic garden practices and take a tour of the site. Van transportation is provided and the tour is limited to 20 participants.

3) ***Adventures in Ornamentals at Thomas Hollow Nursery*** – We know that for many of you, a Master Gardener conference is not complete unless you have some plants to try and fit in the car for the drive home... This tour is for you! Join Celeste Scott and our Sustainable Landscapes workgroup for a tour of Thomas Hollow Nursery in Bristol VA. Van transportation is provided and the tour is limited to 20 participants.

4) ***Discovery Garden Tour at Gray Fossil Site*** – This tour will feature a tour of the garden as well as a visit with one of the paleontologists at the site. The Discovery Garden is a unique garden displaying many of the same plants (or same genus of plants) that were found at the Gray Fossil Site. These fossils were formed during the Pliocene era about 4-5 million years ago. A fossil of the Tennessee Wildflower - Passion Flower was found on the site as well as many others. Over 200 species of plants and animal fossils have been unearthed including some that are new to science. The Discovery Garden is meant to represent what it may have been like at the time the fossils were formed. It is a certified Monarch Waystation with native plants that form an ecosystem to support the local wildlife, insects, birds, and small mammals. This tour will be a drive yourself and will enable 40 people to participate.

12:30-1:30 Lunch- Boxed lunch served at the Ron Ramsey Ag Center

1:30-5:00 ***Roan Mountain Tour***

Lace up your hiking boots! We are traveling to the gem of Northeast TN-Roan Mountain. We begin our journey at the Park Headquarters with an overview of our learning journey from Park Ranger, Phil Hylan. We will motorcade to Carvers Gap along the TN/NC border and hike to the top of Round Bald and Engine Gap where we will discover the beauty of 13 endemic species of goldenrod, Gray's Lily, wire grass (only other seen in Northern US), and Roan Mountain bluets. Prepare to be blown away by the flame azaleas and the buzzing of the numerous pollinators amidst the colorful mountain backdrop (which Melody will point out the folds and prominent peaks of the mighty Appalachians). Discover the magnificence of the Frasier Fir, a federally protected species whose endemic range is only here in ETN and WNC! Bring rain gear...the weather on the mountain can change fast! Transportation is provided, so registration is limited to 50 participants.