



Tuckaleechee Garden Club Gazette

Garden Club for the Peaceful Side of the Smokies, Townsend, TN

President's Note — August Greetings

Hello gardening friends,

August has arrived in all its steamy, Southern glory. We've been blessed with generous rain this summer, but the heat and humidity have certainly teamed up to create a perfect storm for plant diseases. Not exactly the kind of "abundance" we hope for in our gardens! I know many of us are battling spots, blights, and mildews right now, so take heart — you're not alone.

This month, we're in for a real treat. Our speaker is Dr. Mark Windham, retired UT plant pathology professor and one of the foremost experts on roses and dogwoods. Mark will be sharing his deep knowledge of dogwoods and how we can best care for them in our landscapes. His programs are always rich with practical wisdom, and I know we'll all walk away better equipped to help our dogwoods thrive.

Take note that this month's design theme is 'A Picture of Nature' and the design type is Photography! It's a great opportunity to share your choice photographs of nature from your garden or wherever.

You'll also notice that we continue to fine-tune our newsletter. We truly welcome your feedback — especially the things you enjoy or would like to see more of. This is your newsletter, and your voice helps shape it.

And finally, a very special THANK YOU to Jolene Martin, who has graciously stepped into the role of newsletter editor. Jolene's enthusiasm and dedication are already shining through. Three cheers for Jolene!

I look forward to seeing everyone at our August meeting. Stay cool, stay hydrated, and may your gardens offer many moments of beauty even in the heat of summer.

Warmly, *Sue Hamilton*

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General Information & Important Dates *August Issue*

Next Meeting: August 18, 2026 **Tuckaleechee Garden Club 43rd Anniversary!**

Program: "How to Choose, Plan, & Care for Dogwoods"

Speaker: Dr. Mark Windham

Horticulture: Refer to Section D for a list of Classes for exhibiting Horticulture specimens.

Design: Refer to Section D for exhibiting a Design.

Design Theme: 'A Picture of Nature'

Design Type: Botanical Arts - Photography (HB p 95)

Hostesses: JoAnne Funk & Scott Schehr

Judges for Horticulture & Design: Wanda Taylor & Janie Bitner

CSP Chairs

Cades Cove Bed

Jerry Faulkner

Camp Wesley Woods

Diane Rohert

GSM Heritage Center

Debbie Dickie

Faithscape

Diane Rohert

Odham Hospitality

Francesca Messenger

Townsend Elementary

Theresa Schehr



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Board Members

President: Sue Hamilton

Vice President: Diane Rohert

Recording Secretary: Anna Gaultney

Treasurer: Francesca Messenger

Chaplain: Debbie Dickie

Parliamentarian: Jolene Martin

Historian: Kris Jedlicki

Membership: Janie Bitner

Fundraising: Theresa Schehr

Communications: Theresa Schehr

General Information & Important Dates Continued *August Issue*

Upcoming Events

- **General Note:** Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the Month unless otherwise noted
- Sept. 19th: Bike Bash, Chair: Francesca Messenger
- Oct. 6th: TUMC Fall Sale
- Oct. 13th: TFGC Conservation Camp (Beersheba Spring, TN)
- Oct. 17th: District IV Fall Meeting, Fox Den Knoxville

Our Mission

.... to inspire and foster a passion for the art and science of gardening through volunteer community service projects, environmental stewardship, and educational programs that promote sustainable horticulture, beautification, and conservation for future generations of gardeners.

Tuckaleechee Garden Club is a 501(c)(3) Organization

Monthly Tips *August Issue*

August Gardening Calendar



Sweet corn has never been sweeter, watermelon never so refreshing as those eaten in August. This is the month to sit back and enjoy the bounty of your garden. Being the beginning of the harvest season, it's a time to "put things up" for the coming cold months. Don't forget to harvest cut flowers and herbs as well. However, it's a hot month too and you will most likely have to work at keeping things watered. Following are some tips for your **August gardening calendar**:

Lawn Care

- Fertilize your tall fescue and Bermuda lawns in late August using a high nitrogen fertilizer of a 5:1:1 ratio. If the lawn is needing extensive renovation and aeration, wait until early September when the "springtime of lawn care" has arrived.
- As Japanese beetles return to the soil late in the month, treat again for grubs with milky spore disease or beneficial nematodes. This will reduce winter mole destruction on your lawn.
- During dry spells, continue to mow high.

Perennials, Annuals, & Bulbs

- Keep after the crabgrass and other weeds that want to invade your lawn and garden.
- Avoid letting weeds go to seed letting them be an even bigger problem next year. If you want to use chemical control, be sure to select the appropriate herbicide for the location of your weeds and always follow label directions. Weeds with seed heads should be put in the trash and not in the compost pile or left to die on the ground where they will germinate next year.
- Purchase fall blooming perennials for this year's garden such as anemone, sunflowers (*Helianthus*), goldenrod (*Solidago*), sedums and toad lily (*Tricyrtis*).
- There are some fantastic sales on unsold perennials in August which can beautify your garden this year and next. Take advantage of price cuts and shop early for the best selection.
- Plant some fall blooming crocus bulbs and if you haven't already, order your spring flowering bulbs now to be planted this October-November.
- If using liquid fertilizer, continue to fertilize annuals and container plants.
- Be sure to keep garden mums well fertilized until buds show color. Mums are heavy feeders and require lots of nitrogen.
- Sow Wildflower seeds.

Fruits & Veggies

- Dig potatoes after the tops have died down.
- For late crops of beets, bush beans, cabbage, carrots, collards, kale, lettuce, peas, spinach, turnips, kohlrabi, and onion, continue sowing seeds until August 15th. Transplants can still be planted of broccoli, early cabbage, cauliflower, collards, kale and onions as well.
- Make the second application of fertilizer on new plantings of June bearing strawberries. Apply 3 lbs. of 10-10-10 per 100 feet of row.
- After the last raspberry harvest for the year, prepare for next year while also avoiding diseases by pruning out old flowering canes leaving only 3-4 young canes per foot of row. Wait until spring to prune back shoot tips.

Shrubs & Trees

- Avoid pruning trees and shrubs, particularly hedging plants such as boxwood, hemlock and hollies since doing so this late in the growing season can stimulate new growth that will not harden-off in time for the cold winter weather ahead.
- Azaleas, pieris, mountain laurel and other ericaceous (acid-loving) species need to be fertilized one more time before the end of August using an acid based soluble fertilizer containing iron.
- Spray against sap feeding lacebugs. Spray the underside of leaves with an appropriate insecticide, insecticidal soap or a summer horticultural oil.
- Fertilize roses to encourage last new growth and hardening-off before frost.

Miscellaneous

- Hummingbirds migrate in August so keep feeders full.
- Photograph your garden to help yourself remember what you did-and did not- like this year. See what works, what doesn't, and when the time comes to add or remove plants, you will be able to see what needs to be done when you analyze the photos this Winter. You will know what plants you need to remove or add.
- Change the water in your bird bath regularly, and keep it filled. Standing water is less healthy for the birds and may become a breeding ground for mosquito larvae.
- Continue to aerate and moisten compost pile to speed decomposition.

Monthly Tips Continued *August Issue*



Be on the Lookout...for the dreaded Aster yellows disease, that is very common this time of year, on coneflower, sunflower, and black-eyed Susans. It's actually a phytoplasma disease—a microscopic, bacteria-like organism—that infects more than 300 plant species and causes dramatic, often bizarre distortions in flowers, foliage, and roots. It is not a fungus or virus, and it spreads only through sap-feeding insects, especially the aster leafhopper. Once a plant is infected, sorry to say, there is no cure!! And plants have to be removed to protect the rest of the garden. Don't compost but put in a plastic bag and throw in the trash. Prevention focuses on breaking the disease cycle. After removing plants, eliminate perennial weeds that host the disease. The phytoplasma can overwinter in the roots of perennial weeds which include dandelion, plantain, thistles, goldenrod, and wild carrot (Queen Ann's Lace). Leafhoppers are the only way the disease spreads. Leafhoppers are fast-moving and difficult to control with sprays. Home-garden insecticides have limited effectiveness. Sanitize any tools used to remove infected plants. - *Submitted by Dr. Sue*



My Favorite Late Summer Wildflower

*Submitted by
Anna Gaultney*

Late summer has some bright blooming wildflowers to enjoy! I love Cardinal flower, Ironweed, and Joe Pye Weed (merely because of its name) but by far my favorite is Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*). Every time I hiked in the late summer with young children, I loved to point out the Jewelweed and have them touch the seed pods and see the seeds pop out and shoot everywhere. It was fun to watch them get excited about spreading seeds. I always explained that is why it is called “touch-me-not”!

Jewelweed typically grows 2 to 5 feet in height. Its flowers are bright orange, with red-orange flecks. Also, there is pale Jewelweed with yellow flowers (*Impatiens pallida*). Seedlings sprout in early spring and reach maximum size by August. Flowering begins in mid-summer and continues until frost. It is an aggressive plant and will even outgrow other weeds so if you have a wet ditch that you need to have a beautiful plant take over; Jewelweed is the one for you. It is also loved by hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. Another cool thing is that Jewelweed also has inconspicuous flowers that never open. These flowers, termed cleistogamous by botanists, fertilize themselves and produce seed without ever exchanging pollen with another flower. Cleistogamous flowers are very small (about 0.04inch long) and are borne near the bases of the leaves. Research has shown that seeds produced by the showy, cross-pollinated flowers grow into larger, hardier plants, but the cleistogamous flowers produce seed at a much lower cost to the parent plant.



Jewelweed is a Native American medicinal plant. The sap from the stem and leaves is said to relieve itching and pain from a variety of ailments, including hives, poison ivy, stinging nettle, and other skin sores and irritations. The sap has also been shown to have anti-fungal properties and can be used to treat athlete's foot.

So, collect some Jewelweed seeds this late summer and drop them in a place where you want it to grow next year. Perhaps you have that soggy, shady place in your yard that you don't want to mow any more where you can let Jewelweed just do its thing.

For more information go to [US Forest Service Jewelweed](#)

Take a Second Look at Growing Roses

*Submitted by
Dr. Sue Hamilton*

Red Stripe' Oso Easy Rose



Have you paid attention to what's happening in the world of roses?! It's amazing the new, improved, and top performing roses, particularly 'landscape roses', that are currently on the market. Just as I say with Hydrangeas, every garden deserves to have a couple of these high-performing gems to enliven their summer garden. The world of roses is huge and so big and vast that to make sense of it all, roses have been broken into seven different categories. From Hybrid Teas, to Grandifloras, Miniatures, Climbing, Floribundas, to Heirloom and finally Landscape roses, there really is a rose for everyone. But I want to focus on Landscape

Roses. A landscape rose is a tough, low-maintenance shrub rose bred to provide continuous color with minimal care. Key traits include high disease resistance, repeat blooming from spring to frost, and growth on their own roots instead of being grafted. If you haven't looked at what landscape rose selections are available lately, you need to take a second look!

It all started with 'Knock Out' roses and this series of roses are still fabulous performers offering now over 10 colors from which to choose! The most recent 'Knock Out' introduction is ['Petite Knock Out'](#), the first-ever miniature 'Knock Out' rose! Growing to just 18" tall and wide, its perfect for container gardening or in the front of a border. Like other 'Knock Out' selections, it repeats flowering throughout the season and is disease resistant. ['Orange Glow Knock Out'](#) is the newest color addition to the series growing to 4.5' t x 3' wide.

'Drift' roses are another series I'm in love with. Growing to just 2' tall and wide, they have so many uses in the garden. Great for containers, ground cover, planted in mass, or in front or the middle of a border. There are now 12 different colors available in the ['Drift' collection](#).

['Oso Easy' roses](#) from Proven Winners have caught my fancy too. This disease-free series offers a variety of sizes to choose from with some selections staying small to just 2' tall and others growing from 3' to 4' feet and even 5' tall and wide. There's a rose for every size which makes this series versatile in its use. There are 12 colors available to choose from. New for 2026 is the 'Oso Easy Red Stripe' which can grow up to 5' tall and wide.

One last landscape rose series that is quite unique is the 'Ringo' series. It features beautiful bi-colored roses with dark centered rings and many varieties in the series have color-changing blooms which is rare! Such varieties have blooms which go

through three distinct color phases, creating a multicolored display on a single plant. This means your shrub always looks dynamic and “festive,” with multiple colors present at once. [Check it out!](#) There are just three varieties in this series from which to choose but oh how unique!

No matter which landscape rose you grow, all prefer full sun (at least 6 good hours of direct sun), good moisture, and a well-drained, organically rich soil. Select the right size for your landscape and no pruning will be necessary. Plants repeat bloom with no pruning but deadheading can speed up reblooming if desired. And I can attest from personal experience; you will have little to no foliar diseases that you need to spray to keep your rose looking great! With **Landscape Roses**, those days of spraying roses are gone! I hope you take a second look at this great category of roses! They are fabulous companion plants to hydrangeas, azaleas, hollies, and perennials too!



Over the Garden Fence...

Save those cardboard boxes and use them to help with controlling weeds. Break down boxes, place them in a single layer on the ground, then cover with three to six inches of mulch or compost. Water thoroughly. **Your earthworms will thank you!**



In the Kitchen...

Vegetable Gardening Wisdom by Kelly Smith Trimble

Cantaloupe is prone to fast decay. To slow down this process dip a newly harvested melon in hot water for a few minutes to kill any mold and fungus, then dry before storing in the refrigerator.

Recipe Ideas *August Issue*

Garden herb abundance?

Try making herb salt!

This is my most recent salt:

- 3 cups of fresh Basil
- 1 cup of fresh Oregano
- 1 cup salt

Blend in food processor until smooth. Put in dehydrator at 125-135 degrees. Once dry, put back in food processor and blend until you are back to a salt texture. DONE! Yum.... Amazing on pork chops or chicken!

Submitted by

Kris Jedlicki



Members Highlight *August Issue*



Prop-and-Swap: In collaboration with the **Dancing Bean Coffee House**, TGC offers a fun and education *Prop-and-Swap* event the first Tuesday morning of each month. Members Carol Meyers, Michele Norris, Loren Abbott and Francesca Messenger above are enjoying meeting the community and visitors along with educating them on plant propagation.

Camp Wesley Woods

During one of the Tuckaleechee Garden Club (TCG) Prop and Swap events at a local coffee shop, an encounter between the Camp Wesley Woods (CWW) Director, Reverend Garrett Hammonds, and a TGC member led to the creation of a four-part partnership between the TGC, Camp Wesley Woods, Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church, and the Blount County Master Gardeners called *Kidscape*. We envisioned a multi-year project, starting with the planting of new gardens focusing on supporting pollination and native plants, and expanding or rehabilitating existing gardens with Tuckaleechee Garden Club and Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church taking the lead. Tuckaleechee United Methodist has a long relationship with Camp Wesley Woods, and the Tuckaleechee Garden Club has met at Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church since its inception. Camp Wesley Woods and staff have a rich legacy of environmental stewardship and education but welcome help from community collaborators. Once the gardens are well-established, we plan to use them as a classroom for campers and other groups who use Camp Wesley Woods. The Blount County Master Gardeners have a good track record of pollinator education & working with children. The Master Gardeners will work closely with Camp Wesley Woods staff to develop education opportunities and activities in the coming years. There is synergy among the four partners and lots of connections and overlap. We are excited about developing this project and nurturing our partnership.



*Submitted by
Dr. Carole Meyers*



August Flower Show

Design: Refer to Section D for exhibiting a Design.

Design Theme: 'A Picture of Nature'

Design Type: Botanical Arts - Photography (HB p 95) Black/White or Colored Photo; 4" x 6" matted; No frames; no larger than 6.5" x 8.5 with mat; Isles will be provided.

Your 4x6 photograph should embrace the theme "A Picture of Nature," capturing the essence of your home garden or a cherished, unique place you've visited. The photograph can be in color, black and white, or enhanced with filters. Provide a listing of plant(s) and/or animal or insect with scientific name on a 3x5 index card to accompany the photograph. Reminder, no frames and no larger than 6.5" x 8.5" with mat. Isles will be provided.

*Submitted by
Theresa Schehr*

