



Frequently I'm asked what my favorite flower is. I have to confess, I can't decide on a favorite. I love early blooming flowers because they

**Cherokee County
Master Gardener
PLANT SALES!**

**Spring
April 30, 2022**

**Summer
June 18, 2022**

**Fall
September 17, 2022**

By Carolyn Puckett, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Did you know that there is one genus of plants that is known for its supposed ability to break rocks? It sounds farfetched, but the genus name *Saxifraga* derives from the Latin words *saxum*, meaning rock, and *frangere*, meaning to break. Indeed, many *Saxifraga* species live in the fissures of rocks, and over time do contribute to the crumbling of the rock.

At one time, people determined the medicinal use of plants based on the

By Mary Tucker, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Early this year, Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences hosted a six-session series of webinars with the theme "Tending Nature: Native Plants and Every Gardener's Role in Fostering Biodiversity." The broad focus of the series is "the ecological roles of native plants and some of the creatures that depend on them."

I attended the webinars via Zoom, and it was one of the best series of classes that I have ever attended. And now you can benefit as well because the Tending Nature presentations are archived on the Ohio State University website at <https://u.osu.edu/certify/tending-nature/>. Click on the "Tending Nature" tab, and you will find links to the recordings and to audio transcripts.

All of the speakers in the lineup were excellent, and I highly recommend the series to anyone interested in nature, gardening, wildlife, pollinators, or ecology in general. Attesting to its popularity, there were approximately 10,000 registrants from around the United States and Canada, and even some from other continents.

Each session lasts for about an hour, and you can count the time toward your Master Gardener Continuing Education hours.

Here is the lineup of speakers and topics:

Mary Gardiner: "Beneficial Insect Biodiversity: What It Is and Why It Matters"

Doug Tallamy: "Bringing Nature Home: The Importance of Native Plants"

Lisa Olsen: "Cultivating a Community of Support for Native Plants"

Bryan Danforth: "Host-plant Specialist Bees – Biology, Biodiversity, and Conserving Them in Your Backyard"

Heather Holm: "Bumble Bee Banquet: Selecting Native Plants for Bumble Bees"

Debra Knapke: "Native Plants in My Garden? Absolutely!"

While you are on the Ohio State University website, I invite you to look at the many other resources available at the Tending Nature section. In addition to the Tending Nature webinar recordings, you'll see other archived recordings of programs. You'll also find a wealth of information about beneficial insects, native plants, bees, and much more. There are also a links to their Facebook and YouTube pages, where you will find yet more resources and educational videos.

I am especially impressed with the extent of information that OSU has on bees. In fact, there is a whole section called the "Bee Lab," which is devoted to education, research, and outreach related to honey bees, wild bees, and other pollinators. Here you can learn about the keeping of honey bees, their management, and their diseases. If you are interested in native bees, the Bee Lab can help you learn about identification, nesting habits, life cycle, and conservation issues. The section on plants will help you educate yourself on how to garden to attract pollinators, plants that provide nectar or pollen, and how pollinators interact with plants at various stages of the insects' lifecycles.

This OSU website will certainly be one of my "go-to"

By Veronica Steffensmeier, Cherokee County Master Gardener

One of my favorite weekend activities is exploring one of the many farmers markets in Cherokee County. The county boasts more than two dozen markets, each offering a unique shopping experience. Locally grown produce, handcrafted products, and artisan foods fill the colorful stalls that are set up on Saturday mornings and on some weekdays.

These are difficult times for small, sustainable farmers who are struggling to survive. Buying from and paying the farmers directly for their wares keeps small farms alive and contributes to the local economy.

Unlike the supermarkets, you'll find fresher fruits and vegetables grown locally, ripened to perfection, and sold hours after being picked. Locally grown food tends to be healthier, with more vitamins and minerals and a better quality than produce found in grocery stores.

I especially enjoy meeting and talking to the farmers at the markets and knowing where my food comes from. You can even find vendors that grow organic foods free of pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. If corn is in season, you'll find the freshest, best-tasting varieties available. Locally grown tomatoes, peaches, and strawberries are just some

By Sue Allen, Cherokee County Master Gardener

Did you know that snakes do not hibernate? Instead they go into a state of brumation where their metabolism slows down, and they become less active. They can begin this brumation period anytime from September to December, and it lasts until March or April. Then when the temperature reaches around 60 degrees Fahrenheit, they search for a nice warm surface on which to sunbathe during the mid-day. When the temperature begins to drop, they return to their dens.

In our climate zone, USDA Hardiness Zone 7, you might see the following snakes sunbathing on a warm rock, driveway, or patio in March or April:

- Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix*)
- Eastern garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*)
- Eastern kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*)
- Northern watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*)
- Rat snakes (*Elaphe [Pantherophis] obsoleta*)
- Ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)
- Scarlet kingsnake (*Cemophora coccinea*)

Snakes serve important roles in nature. For instance, kingsnakes not only eat small animals such as mice, rats, lizards, frogs, and other snakes; most importantly,

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Farmers Markets In Cherokee County

Canton Farmers Market, 130 E Main Street, Canton, GA 30114 - Location Cannon Park
Canton Farmers Market 251 East Marietta Street, Canton, GA
Cherokee Market Farm Fresh Produce & Antiques, 11611 Cumming Highway, Canton, GA, 30115
Woodstock Farm Fresh Market, Market Street and Reformation Brewery's backyard, Woodstock, GA
Waleska Farmers Market at Reinhardt University, 8891 Fincher Road, Waleska, GA 30183 - Near City Hall

Farmers Markets In Cobb County

Acworth Farmer's Market, 4405 Cherokee Street, Acworth, GA
Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market at Cobb International, 2350 Spring Road, Smyrna, GA 30080
Kennesaw Farmers Market, 2829 Cherokee Street North West, Kennesaw, GA -Depot Park in the bus turn-around lot
Marietta Square Farmers Market, 65 Church Street NW, Marietta, GA 30060 -Mill Street, 1 block off the square
Smyrna Outdoor Market, 200 Village Green Circle SE, Smyrna, GA 30080 -Atlanta Road next to Community Center

Farmers Markets In Fulton County

Alpharetta Farmers Market, North and South Broad Street, Alpharetta, GA -In front of City center
Common Ground Farmers Market, 7741 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA -Fulton County Government Annex Building
Roswell Farmers and Artisans Market, 38 Hill Street., Roswell, GA 30350 -Under the oaks behind Roswell City Hall
Sandy Springs Farmers Market, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328 -City Springs

Other Farmers Markets Near Cherokee County

Sweet Apple Farmers and Artisan Market, 320 Hardscrabble Road, Roswell, GA
Milton Farmers Market, 12615 Broadwell Road, Milton, GA
UGA Cooperative Extension Service Fulton County, 11913 Wills Road, Alpharetta, GA
Jasper Farmers Market, Park and Ride, Stegall Drive, Jasper, GA
Vickery Village Farmers Market, 5920 Post Road, Cumming, GA
Halcyon Farmers Market, 6365 Halcyon Way, Alpharetta, GA
Stewards of the Earth Farmers Market, 7770 Roswell Road NE, Sandy Springs, GA
Dunwoody Green Market, 1551 Dunwoody Village Pkwy, Dunwoody, GA
Cartersville Farmers Market, 10 North Public Square, Cartersville, GA
Brookwood Farmers' Market, 2980 Vaughan Dr, Cumming, GA

Check your County Extension Website and these additional websites for a Market near you.

- When planting orange or yellow peppers, plant extra since

MAY GARDENING TIPS


