

THE LEAFLET



August 2010

A PUBLICATION BY THE ROBERTSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

ANIMAL SHELTER GETS FACELIFT

Project Lead, Ann Crouch

By Lynn Stenglein

Much needed mulch arrived at the Animal Shelter landscaped areas this month. Ann Crouch, Catey Henning, Dee Talley, and Lynn Stenglein worked to remove the weeds, put down newspapers, and spread the mulch. Animal Shelter staff water regularly, and most of the plants installed by Master Gardeners have survived, though weed eating by county workers has eliminated some smaller plants. Ann will schedule another workday this fall to divide some of the ornamental grasses, move some crowded shrubs, and fill in bare areas with coneflowers and daylilies.

Master Gardener Meeting:
August 26, 2010 @ 7:00 pm
**Education Building
at the Fair Grounds**

This will be a "work night" at our Robertson Co. Master Gardener Fair Booth, including packaging seeds we supply for giveaway at our booth during Fair week.
REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR EXTRA SEEDS TO THE AUGUST MEETING!



Pictured are Project Leader Ann Crouch and Dee Talley at the Robertson County Animal Shelter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Catey Henning and the YMCA Garden Master Gardener Project for coverage on WSMV on July 30th!

OUR THANKS to Ursula Otto, Mary Russell Rigsby, and Jane Wilkerson for refreshments for our August meeting.

HATS OFF to Lowes, Brown's Fork, and Bonnie Plants for their support of Master Gardener Projects.

RIDGETOP STATION PARK BEAUTIFICATION

By Denise Arnold
Project Leader

Five birdhouses purchased at our May Plant Sale from Doug Buck have been installed at the park for the enjoyment of the public and to enhance the environment for the present bird population. We contacted Rory Osborne, Director of Ridgetop Parks, who provided instruction mindful of keeping with the integrity of the property and the cities permission. Following careful planning, the bird houses were painted to be unobtrusive, installed with regard to correct height, direction, food and water sources, and location for the birds in the area.

The late Marseille Wilson worked diligently to ensure the property ownership transfer to the City of Ridgetop she loved. Our committee enjoyed a long, loving relationship with Miss Marseille. We also served on the committee which selected the color scheme, etc. for the Wilson House restoration. Other phases of this plan will be implemented as funds become available. It was with great love and respect that we chose this project, in loving memory of Marseille Wilson.

Thanks to Laurie Hinkle and Carolyn Donoho for their participation.



SUMNER CO. / ROBERTSON CO. MASTER GARDENERS NETWORK

By Lynn Stenglein

Dorothy Briggs, Catey Henning, Herma Peavyhouse, Vickie Nixon, and Lynn Stenglein joined Sumner County Master Gardeners for their August 3rd meeting. In addition to meeting about 50 like-minded garden lovers, we learned that both associations have many of the same challenges and opportunities, especially retaining able-bodied workers and contending with the hot and dry weather. Sumner County Master Gardeners work at Bledsoe Park and Craigfont and maintain landscaping and gardens at Sumner County Medical Center. One Sumner County intern started a children's "mystery plant" project at a library and reported a good response on the tomato plant and cone flower. Sumner County hosts provided a wonderful potluck supper. All enjoyed touring the gardens of our hostess, Meg Georgiades, who is president of the Sumner County Master Gardeners.



Pictured are Herma Peavyhouse and Sumner Co. M.G. President, Meg Georgiades.

“I compost, is it necessary for me to also fertilize?”

Composting is a great way to recycle various plant matters, etc. Therefore it is great for our environment. Properly handled and added to your soil, it will definitely help to condition your soil for greater production. It cannot, however, meet all the needs of your soil. Your soil would definitely benefit from the addition of fertilizer. But, as they say, “if it ain't broke, don't fix it”. If you are satisfied with your plant growth, then rest easy.

BEETLES, disease threaten trees

Two tree scourges – one that threatens ash trees and the other walnuts – have been discovered in the past two weeks in East Tennessee. Agriculture officials say either could be devastating.

The ash borer, which attacks only ash trees, and the thousand cankers disease which attacks walnut trees can both kill a tree in 3 years.

Agriculture officials urge the following:

****Don't transport firewood even within the state.**

When camping, use local wood for burning. Do not bring your own.

****Don't buy firewood from outside the state.**

****Watch for signs of infestation. Call 1-800-628-2631 if ash tree infestation is suspected.**

****Call the state's Regulatory Services Division at 1-800-628-2631 if signs of black walnut infestation are discovered.**

“A TREASURE CHEST OF THE GARDEN'S BEST”

By Michelle Adcock

Once again it is time for the Robertson County Fair. This year the theme of our booth is "A Treasure Chest of the Garden's Best" which builds on the overall fair theme. We need all our members to support the booth in order to recruit new members & win the \$100 cash prize. Ways that you can help include:

1. Bring seeds from your plants to the next meeting. We will give these away during the fair.
2. Sign up to work a shift in the booth. A personal connection is the best way to recruit new Master Gardeners.
3. Come to the next planning meeting at the Springfield library. It will be Aug. 24th at 6:30.
4. Remember that our next regular monthly meeting (Aug 26th) will be held at the fairgrounds. Please attend & help set up our booth.

If you have questions or want to sign up to work a shift contact Jeanne at

jeanne.protsman@comcast.net or 859-2042.

Remember that any time you spend collecting seeds, working a shift, or otherwise working on the booth can be counted towards certification hours.

Tennessee Bananas Thrive!

By Laurie Hinkle

In the mid 1990's my husband Tim was given the gift of 3 small Banana trees. For 15 years, we have dug them up before first frost and planted after the fear of a late freeze. We have watched them struggle during dry years, and flourish during the wetter years. We have gifted the offspring of these plants to other gardeners over the years and still have more than enough for our landscaping. Each year we choose a new location, trying to find the optimal spot in our yard. In Spring 2009, I planted the trees in the plant bed in front of our house where they receive 8-10 hours of sun a day and they grew to new heights and reproduced dozens of new plants. This past spring, we placed the older, more mature plants in the same area and now have baby Bananas! You know you're a Master Gardener when you text pictures of your Baby Bananas to all your friends.



Laurie Hinkle's Banana Tree

Fun Fact: Did you know Banana trees aren't actually trees at all? They are in fact a very large perennial herb native to Southeast Asia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ongoing thru 10/31 – Chihuly at Cheekwood, "Glasswork In the Garden", 356-9000

8/31 – Fall Gardeners Festival, Plateau Research & Ed. Cntr
Crossville, TN www.plateau.tennessee.edu

9/10 & 11 – Rutherford Co. Fall Lawn & Garden Extravaganza,
with speakers, demonstrations, vendors, local garden art artisans, etc.
mastergardeners.rc@gmail.com

WELCOME THE CLASS OF '10

By Lynn Stenglein

The Master Gardener class of 2010 will begin attending classes in September. Let's welcome them and work to shepherd them into our Robertson County association. Each class brings new ideas and talents to our group.

You will have the opportunity to sign up to mentor and September meetings. So, what does a Master Gardener mentor do? We will have a list of suggestions such as inviting interns to meetings and to field projects and M.G. issues; suggestions. Ultimately, it depends on the needs, interests, and what works for the mentor and the intern.



Participation by the interns and by Master Gardeners is voluntary, of course; we will seek to explain that clearly to the new class members. Many of us have had a wonderful and valued mentor in our lives as Master Gardeners. Let's continue that and provide that resource for our new members.

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